Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية ـ الراي ـ

Volume 21 Number 6128 | AMMAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1996, RAMADAN 1, 1416 | Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Ciller to suggest coalition with Motherland

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's Prime Minister-designate Tansu Ciller said Saturday she would propose setting up a coalition government with the rightwing Motherland Party with no strings attached. Ms. Ciller, who leads the True Path Party, said she would make the proposal on Monday to the party's leader, Mesut Yilmaz, who is her number-one political rival. President Suleiman Demirel asked Ms. Ciller on Friday to form a new government, after the pro-Islamic Welfare Party, led by Necmettin Erbakan, proved unable to do so and gave up. Welfare came first in Dec. 24 parliamentary elections by a small margin, but it failed to win enough seats to form a majority government on its own. "We are going to present a proposal to the Motherland Party on Monday to form a coalition, with no preconditions," Ms. Ciller said after a meeting with True Path's top executives, who gave her the green light to negotiate with other parties. Mr. Yilmaz, who twice rejected a Motherland-Welfare coalition, has himself called for talks between his party, with 133 seats in the 550-seat parliament, and True Path, which has 135.

Ramadan fasting begins today

AMMAN (Petra) — Today marks the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan, a statement issued by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi on Saturday said. Sheikh Tamimi said the crescent of the Holy Month was sighted Saturday evening. Palestinians are also to start the dawn-to-dusk fasting month on Sunday, a day after their historic general election. "Tomorrow is the first day of the Ramadan month and everybody is called upon to fast," Judge Mohammad Abu Surdana announced late Saturday on Palestinian television. "The crescent of the moon was sighted in Saudi Arabia," home of Islam's holiest sites, he said. Devout Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, smoking and sex, from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan. Oman announced Ramadan will start Monday. It said the new moon ushering the start of Ramadan was not sighted on Saturday night, making Monday the first day believers in Oman would fast during daylight hours.

Palestinians turn out en masse for election

Voting judged as fair despite irregularities and violations

Israeli presence mars Jerusalem balloting

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIANS TURNED out massively Saturday to elect a president and self-rule legislature in what was a ringing vote of confidence in Yasser Arafat and his step-by-step strategy for creating an independent state.

Election officials reported a high turnout across the Gaza Strip and West Bank, but said voter participation was lower in the two urban centres still occupied by Israel — East Jerusalem and Hebron.

Average turnout was about 70 per cent, boosted by bright sunshine after several days of storms, with participation climbing to 85 per cent in the Gaza Strip.

"Voters... have turned out massively to take part in the first Palestinian election today," the Central Election Commission said.

"In general, we have not received any major complaints on the election process," said Gaby Baramki, an official at commission headquarters in Ramallah.

Voting was extended for three hours in East Jerusalem where observers protested a heavy-handed Israeli police presence had hindered polling.

Voting was also continuing beyond the official closing time of 7:00 p.m. (1700 GMT) in the West Bank town of Jenin and several other locations, officials at the Central Election Commission said.

Officials said the polling stations in East Jerusalem would remain open until 10:00 p.m. after Israeli police and border guards clamped a tight cordon around the Holy City, dissuading many residents from voting.

Turnout in East Jerusalem was only 30 per cent as of 4:00 p.m.

"After the opening of polling stations, Palestinians were held back by barriers and road checkpoints," the commission said, blaming the low turnout on "obstacles erected by the Israelis."

Hundreds of Israeli police and border guards were deployed around polling stations in Arab Jerusalem, checking and double-checking voters' identification papers.

"The massive deployment of Israeli policemen in front of polling stations dissuaded Palestinians from voting," said Mr. Baramki.

Prince Moulay Hicham of Morocco, a member of the 650-strong international observer force, said, "I deplore the harassment of voters by security forces in East Jerusalem."

More than a million Palestinians had registered to vote.

Israeli police justified their deployment by citing fears of possible disruption by Israeli and Palestinian hardliners opposed to the land-for-peace process which led to Saturday's election.

But Palestinians said the Israelis were trying to undermine the vote in Jerusalem.

The Israeli presence in Jerusalem was a stark contrast to excited, packed scenes in the Gaza Strip, especially when Mr. Arafat had to battle through crowds of thousands to cast his vote.

"This is a new era. It is the first legislative and presidential elections for the Palestinian people," Mr. Arafat said after voting. "This is the foundation for our Palestinian state."

Mr. Arafat, who almost lost his trademark black and white headdress in a crush of reporters, dropped two ballots — white for members of

(Continued on page 7)

Settlers mistreat Jordanian observer in Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Petra) — A member of the Jordanian observer team monitoring the Palestinian elections in Hebron was subjected to provocations and pushed around by Jewish settlers living in the West Bank city, Abdul Salam Majali, head of the Jordanian observer team, said Saturday.

Dr. Majali said that the settlers abused the Jordanian observer in Hebron, which had a poor turnout of voters because of the settlers' interference in the elections and demonstrations stasged at the Ibrahimi school yard.

Dr. Majali also expressed regret over the poor turnout of voters in Arab Jerusalem, and attributed it to the heavy presence of Israeli forces at

(Continued on page 2)

Mohammad Yassin Juelis, 72, votes in the West Bank town of Hebron on Saturday (AFP photo)

Iraq accepts Ghali invitation, awaits U.N. to set oil sale talks

Unclear whether acceptance based on 986

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq is waiting for the United Nations to fix the date and place for talks on implementing a resolution that would allow it to export oil for humanitarian needs, Baghdad radio said Saturday.

The Iraqi dinar rose sharply against the U.S. dollar and shots of joy were fired in the streets of Baghdad on news that the government had agreed to discuss with the U.N. the sale of oil to buy badly needed food and medicine.

"Iraq has informed the United Nations secretary general, Boutros Ghali, that it is waiting for the date and place of these talks to be fixed," the radio said.

The dinar was trading at 2,000 to one U.S. dollar on the blackmarket in Baghdad on Saturday, compared to 2,650 dinars on Thursday.

Iraq's official newspapers highlighted the government's decision to enter talks with the United Nations on selling oil for food, showing President Saddam Hussein chairing a meeting discussing it.

"The meeting took a decision to positively respond to the call by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali," Al Jomhouriyah and Qadissiyah newspapers said, referring to a joint meeting by Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council and ruling Baath Party.

The papers showed Saddam Hussein chairing the meeting on Friday night in his field marshal uniform.

But the media, tightly controlled by the government, played down any suggestion Iraq had made concessions to get an invitation from Dr. Ghali to enter talks. Chief U.N. spokeswoman Sylvana Foa announced the talks late on Friday in New York.

A report on Iraqi radio and television on Friday night made no reference to U.N. Resolution 986, which would allow Iraq to sell up to $2 billion of oil over six months. It also did not say whether Iraq had agreed to any terms to enter the talks.

Shebab (Youth) Television, run by President Saddam's eldest son Uday, interrupted normal programming on Friday night to announce the news. It was followed by sporadic firing in the air on Baghdad streets, a traditional Iraqi celebration of good news.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, who has been initiating contacts with the U.N., has said Iraq would enter talks as long as there were no preconditions imposed.

U.N. spokeswoman Foa said Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun had handed over a letter from Mr. Aziz in which "the Iraqi government accepts the secretary general's invitation to enter into discussions with the secretariat of the United Nations regarding the oil-for-food formula."

"The secretary-general hopes these talks will begin as soon as possible in New York," said Ms. Foa.

No other details were immediately available, and it was not known whether Mr. Aziz himself would lead the Iraqi delegation to the talks. Arab sources mentioned the possibility of discussions at a "technical" level.

In Cairo, the Arab League lent its backing to Resolution 986.

"The league supports the implementation of Resolution 986 on an experimental basis for a period of six months to see if it constitutes a violation of Iraq's sovereignty or not," a senior official of the pan-Arab body told journalists.

"The league rejects any violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq," Ahmad Ben Helli said, adding that the resolution was "a step towards easing the suffering of the Iraqi people."

Mr. Ben Helli said the league was coordinating with "the United Nations and the five permanent Security Council members, especially France, in implementing the resolution."

Iraq has been under an almost total U.N. trade ban since invading Kuwait in August 1990, an embargo which has reduced the vast majority of the oil-rich country's 18 million citizens to grinding poverty.

The United Nations last year passed Resolution 986, the second motion of its kind, which would allow Iraq to sell some oil to buy urgent humanitarian supplies like food and medicine.

But the resolution also dictates how the oil is to be exported, imposes strict U.N. supervision on revenues and allocates some money to go to relief for areas in northern Iraq held by rebel Kurdish groups.

Since it was passed, Baghdad has consistently rejected Resolution 986 as an infringement of its sovereignty.

Dr. Ghali cannot change the language of the resolution or the parameters set by it. Only the Security Council can alter it by adopting another resolution after the oil-for-food plan has been in operation for six months.

But he has invited Iraq to talk about how the measures should be implemented and the food distributed.

Official Iraqi newspapers also carried remarks by Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf in which he attacked the United States for trying to "burglarise" frozen Iraqi assets.

The papers said Washington was trying to liquidate up to $3 billion of Iraqi assets to pay people claiming reparations for damage suffered in the 1990 invasion and occupation.

"The government of Iraq shall take the necessary legal measures against action by the American administration to burglarise or seize our money in American banks and institutions," Mr. Sahaf said.

Food prices in the Iraqi capital meanwhile plummeted.

Prices of essential commodities, reacting to the news, fell early in the week, rose, and then fell again on Saturday.

There was chaos in Jamila, Iraq's foodstuffs spot market on Saturday. The price per kilo of rice fell to 950 dinars from 1,300, of flour to 450 from 600 dinars, and sugar to 1,300 from 1,700 dinars.

Hardest hit were small retailers, cart owners and kerb dealers.

"I am going bust. It is over. It (rice) lost about 350 dinars in three hours," said one young man pushing his empty cart in Jamila which bustled with shoppers on Saturday.

It was a different story for the women shoppers.

"I wish to God it is serious this time. What has our oil done? Why do not they let it go out and send us food — those wretched and merciless Americans," said one woman.

Prices of essential commodities, reacting to the news, fell early in the week, rose, and then fell again on Saturday.

There was chaos in Jamila, Iraq's foodstuffs spot market on Saturday. The price per kilo of rice fell to 950 dinars from 1,300, of flour to 450 from 600 dinars, and sugar to

(Continued on page 7)

Hamas buries 2 slain members

JENIN (Agencies) — Thousands of people took part in funeral ceremonies here Saturday for two militants killed in a shootout with Israeli troops on the eve of historic Palestinian elections.

But contrary to earlier concerns, the ceremonies did not erupt into anti-election protests by the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

"There were no incidents," said Jenin police chief Fayez Arafat after the burial of Tareq Mansour and Abdul Rahman Jaradat.

"The two men were buried during the morning so as not to disrupt the election," he told AFP. A third Hamas member slain in the shootout late Friday was buried overnight, officials said.

Israeli troops shot and killed the Hamas militants after the three tried to force their way through an army checkpoint into Israeli territory and opened fire, wounding a soldier in the leg, the army said.

Late Friday hundreds of people took to Jenin's streets calling "Revenge, revenge," and tearing town campaign posters for Saturday's elections.

The head of the Palestinian police, General Nasser Yussef, on Saturday accused the Israeli soldiers of having fired "indiscriminately" at the Hamas militants' car.

But officials from both sides sought to play down the incident for fear it could disrupt the elections.

In Amman, Hamas charged that Palestinian agents tipped off Israeli soldiers who killed the three.

Hamas called on the Palestinian (National) Authority (PNA) to reveal the identity of the agents it said

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan condemns unrest in Bahrain as un-Islamic

Bahraini army says it is ready to intervene

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan on Saturday condemned political unrest in Bahrain, calling it an attempt to "destabilise the security and stability" of the country.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, expressed Jordan's solidarity with Bahrain in its efforts to quell disturbances.

Voicing Jordan's absolute support for and solidarity with Bahrain in "quelling these criminal acts," the minister said Jordan was fully confident that the Bahraini government "is capable of confronting and handling disturbances stirred by those who went astray from their society.

"Society has the right to treat them in the manner which they have chosen for themselves, having become outlaws," he said.

Mr. Kabariti said "terrorists acts are to be condemned wherever they might come from and regardless of any justifications and the forces that stand behind them."

"These groups have done harm to Islam because in the name of Islam they have acted to abuse religion and do harm to the Muslim people," he added.

The United Arab Emirates also offered its support to Bahrian on Friday after the government in the Gulf archipelago announced that the country had been hit by a wave of bombings and arson attacks.

The Bahraini army said for the first time on Saturday that it was ready to intervene to end the disturbances.

"The Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) is in a state of top readiness to carry out its security role ... by taking needed military measures to resolve the situation once and for all and put an end to all acts that violate security," said a Bahrain Defence Ministry statement carried by the official Gulf News Agency.

The tough warning was issued following a meeting attended by the head of the 8,000-strong BDF, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa, Defence Minister Major-General Sheikh Khalifa Ben Ahmad Al Khalifa and other senior officiers.

The statement said the BDF "is closely watching the security situation" in the country.

The Shiite majority in Sunni-ruled Bahrain, the Gulf's main financial centre, have been locked in clashes with the government since December 1994 over demands for the restoration of a parliament dissolved in 1975.

At least 13 civilians and three policemen have been killed and hundreds arrested since disturbances first erupted. Some were later released.

Bahrain "is facing a terrorist plot aimed at shaking stability" and the military is prepared to carry out any orders by the country's leadership and in line with Bahraini laws "especially the martial law," the statement added.

Following clashes on Thursday Bahrain accused "foreign-backed" protesters of conducting a terrorist plot.

It did not name a country or an organisation.

The Interior Ministry announced Saturday there had been 43 arson attacks the previous night, as well as five explosions set off using gas cylinders, attacks on security forces and an illegal demonstration.

The violence continued into Saturday and an unspecified number of arrests were made, the ministry said in a statement.

"The security forces managed to control the situation and stood up firmly to the agitators, arresting some of them who have been interrogated by the authorities," it said, calling on the public to cooperate with police to "defeat the troublemakers' plans."

The ministry had broken with its usual silence on Friday, reporting 38 incidents on Thursday night including fires, explosions and demonstrations.

The two Arabic-language local newspapers in the country of 350,000 inhabitants published pictures Saturday of burned cars, buses and electricity sub-stations.

One of the papers, Al Akbar Al Khaleej, spoke of "many acts of sabotage and terrorism" and said the security forces had arrested several suspects.

Bahrain also received backing for its stance on the unrest from Libya and the secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The GCC, which comprises Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, condemned the "acts of sabotage and subversion," in a statement issued in Riyadh.

It pledged its "total solidarity" to the Bahraini government, which it said was "capable of defeating the destructive plans of elements controlled by foreign parties."

The latest wave of unrest followed the detention of an opposition leader, Sheikh Abdul Amir Al Jamri, after a homemade bomb exploded in a hotel during an international oil conference on Wednesday, without causing casualties.

Opposition figures contacted from Nicosia said he was placed under house arrest on Saturday, although there was no official confirmation.

Turkey holds 9 Black Sea hijackers

EREGLI, Turkey (Agencies) — Turkish police have detained five hijackers posing as passengers on a Black Sea ferry after a four-day ordeal for about 200 hostages on the ship ended peacefully, Anatolian news agency said on Saturday.

The agency said two Chechens and an ethnic Abkhaz from Georgia were among the five detained when police combed the 3,838-tonne Ferry Avrasya at its mooring point near Istanbul.

Four fellow gunmen surrendered on Friday, ending the hijack staged in protest at Russia's assault on Chechen rebels.

The hostages filed off the vessel in Eregli under armed escort.

They were welcomed in the small port city by a crowd that included the mayor and a band playing folk music, and were whisked away to have lunch as guests of the town council. Later the mainly Russian passengers were to be questioned by police as part of the probe into the hijacking.

Their ordeal ended Friday with the four gunmen surrendering peacefully and throwing their weapons into the Bosphorus

Police said a preliminary search of the ship had revealed only one pump-action gun.

No explosives were found on board the 3,838-tonne Avrasya ferry, despite the gunmen's threats to blow up the ship in Istanbul's busy Bosphorus waterway if Moscow continued its assault on Chechen rebels in a southern Russian village.

"Whatever they had, they presumably dumped them in the sea," a policeman said.

No one has been able to see the nine suspects since their capture, but Istanbul police told reporters they had all shaved off the heavy beards they had on the ship in anticipation of a news conference promised but then withdrawn.

Police said the five detained Saturday were: Ceyhan Mollamehtmetoglu, 25, and Abdul Rahmano Buoscan, 29, both born in Chechenya, and Raki, Gisiba, 25, from Abkbazia.

The four who surrendered were all Turks and identified Friday as Mohammed Emin Tokcan, who led the hijacking, Ertan Coskin, Erdinc Tekir and Sedat Temiz.

Mr. Tokcan had said hours after the hijacking Tuesday that 50 people, many of them armed and all of Caucasian origin, were with him.

Non-aligned group presents draft on Sudan

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The six non-aligned countries in the U.N. Security Council on Friday presented a draft resolution demanding that Sudan extradite to Ethiopia three suspects in a recent attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Consultations on the document were not expected to start until Jan. 29, according to diplomats.

The draft "condemns the terrorist assassination attempt" against Mr. Mubarak. The incident occurred June 26 upon Mr. Mubarak's arrival in the Ethiopian capital for an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit.

The draft resolution "strongly deplores the flagrant violation of the sovereignty and integrity of Ethiopia and the attempt to disturb the peace and security of Ethiopia and the region as a whole."

It expressly supports statements made by the OAU demanding that the suspects be extradited. It calls upon Khartoum to "comply with those requests without further delay by handing over to Ethiopia for prosecution the three terrorists wanted in connection with the assassination attempt..."

The document points out that Ethiopia and Sudan signed an extradition treaty in 1968.

It further urges Sudan to desist from "assisting, supporting and facilitating terrorist activities."

The draft resolution asks U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to seek, together with the OAU, Khartoum's cooperation and to present a report to the Security Council within 60 days.

The draft could still be amended. During consultations Friday, Russia reiterated its call for a more prudent and gradual approach, and indicated it would prefer a simple statement rather than a full-blown resolution, according to diplomats.

Sudan has rejected claims it supports terrorism and said it was still searching for the suspects.

The non-aligned group in the Security Council comprises Botswana, Chili, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras and Indonesia.

Sudan on Friday accused Ethiopia of launching cross-border raids and shelling villages as part of an intensified campaign to topple the Khartoum regime.

A statement issued by the embassy of Sudan in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi said positions inside Sudan were now occupied by the Ethiopian military who had massed tanks and troops along the two countries common border.

The statement said that Sudan had launched a formal complaint to the Security Council.

"The letter demanded an immediate withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Sudanese territories and called on the Zenawi government to refrain from the use of force in settling regional disputes," it added.

Ethiopia has previously denied raiding Sudan.

The Sudanese statement accused Ethiopia of taking military action after accusing Khartoum of harbouring the three suspects wanted in connection with Mr. Mubarak assassination attempt.

The president of the Security Council said on Tuesday he would urge Sudan to comply with requests to extradite the men.

"There is a feeling that, so far as Sudan is concerned, there is perhaps more to be done in terms of complying with the requests of the Organisation of African Unity for the extradition of the three suspects, who are thought to be in Sudan," said council president Sir John Weston of Britain.

DEFIANT SETTLERS: A Palestinian watches as settlers march through the West Bank town of Hebron to the Ibrahimi Mosque and back to protest against Palestinian elections on Saturday (see page one) (AFP photo)

Conduct of rulers an election issue

GAZA (R) — The guard at the gate, a Palestinian policeman with a Kalashnikov assault rifle, takes identity cards, laboriously fills in forms, contacts his boss inside and finally issues a pass to the visitor.

Lowly applicants, come in the hope of carrying out banal bureaucratic transactions in this government office, jostle around his desk. Others, confident of their superior status, push to the front of the scrum and pass through quickly.

"It's the Egyptian way," says one of those waiting.

Along the Gaza coast road, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's motorcade was approaching. "It's forbidden," the policemen bluntly told drivers trying to turn in from the sidestreets.

Police cars with flashing lights cleared the rabble off the road and Mr. Arafat's big black car roared past, escorted by eight powerful motorbikes. The wheels, ploughing through the potholes, sent sheets of muddy water onto the pavements.

On the eve of elections for a Palestinian council, scenes like these had turned many Gazans against their new rulers, despite their hatred of the Israelis they replaced.

"Under the Israelis, the Palestinian at least felt free within himself. Not any longer because the secret police are following him everywhere," one woman told an election meeting by the opposition Democratic National Alliance, to loud applause from the rest of the audience.

"We don't need 11,000 security men or all these fancy cars and so on. The first step the council takes must be to withdraw Arafat's chequebook," added alliance member Ghazi Abu Jayeb.

Bribery, corruption, favouritism and mismanagement figure large on the list of ills candidates to the council were promising to combat, though few would go into details.

Islamist candidates took the same line, saying that new government jobs had gone exclusively to people known to be loyal supporters of Mr. Arafat and his political movement Fateh.

"The financial management (by the Palestinian National Authority) has been a complete failure, the government agencies overlap, they deal with things they should have nothing to do with and many decent people have been detained," candidate Abdul Fatah Al Nouri told Reuters.

Journalists have been harassed for upsetting the authority: A prominent editor was detained for ignoring an official request to publish a story about Mr. Arafat on the front page.

"The people in authority don't understand what a free press means. Those who came in from outside (when self-rule started in 1994) had spent their lives in Arab countries and that was the model they adopted," one Gaza journalist said.

Opposition candidates said they hoped the elections on Saturday would tame the tendency of the authorities towards arrogant autocracy, rather than legitimise their conduct.

"It's difficult to imagine the elections making Yasser Arafat more dictatorial," said Haidar Abdul Shafi, one of the most prominent opponents of the self-rule agreements.

"In the end it all depends on the extent to which the public keeps monitoring what is taking place. It would be disastrous if the elections enshrined autocracy," he said.

Fathi Abu Gaynas, a disabled, unemployed driver living in a corrugated-iron hut near Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp, said it would be pointless to vote for an opposition candidate.

"Why would I do that? We need services... and it's only the authority that can provide them," he said.

Employment is a big demand in self-rule election

GAZA (R) — Trapped in a strip of land smaller than many cities and dependent on Israel for almost everything they buy, the one million people of Gaza have found Palestinian self-rule a mixed blessing for their wallets.

The opportunities for work in Israel fluctuate at Israel's whim, legal and political ambiguities have put a damper on hopes of massive investment and many Gazans say they have not yet seen the effects of foreign assistance.

"Self-rule hasn't done anything for us," said Abdul Aziz Saad, a driver who works inside Israel whenever he can — eight days in a bad month, 15 days a month when times are good.

"Everyone goes looking for work but the answer's always the same — no work," says his friend Mahmoud Ziyad, who lives next door to Mr. Saad's corrugated-iron hovel just outside Gaza City.

Unemployment was a big issue in elections for a Palestinian parliament on Saturday but there are no easy solutions and the candidates had only the vaguest notion of how to tackle it.

They blame alternately Israel, their own Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the international community of donors, who pledged $2.4 billion in 1994 for the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

"We have achieved much but it's below the level required," said Abdul Rahman Hamad, a candidate for the Fateh movement of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, defending the authority's record.

"We wanted to get lots of foreign aid but the amount has been very meagre, enough for a few infrastructure projects. We have to encourage Palestinian, Arab and foreign investment and that requires certain elements," he added.

The notion of international miserliness is widespread — one voter told an election meeting that the donors had "tricked" Palestinians with promises of plenty.

But the office of the U.N. special coordinator in the occupied territories disputes this explanation.

Rick Hooper, the coordinator's chief of staff, said donors had disbursed $900 million since October 1993, one third of it to cover the budget deficit of the PNA.

The biggest economic blow since self-rule began, he said, was Israel's closure of the territories in spring last year.

"Without the donor support and the salaries they were paying to the Palestinian police and civil servants, the effect would have been much more drastic," he said.

"Since the summer (of 1995) the economy has begun a gradual upswing. But it's very slow and fragile — a closure (of the crossing into Israel) can knock it off balance," he added.

The U.N. solution is to persuade Israel to make life easier for Palestinians to work in the Jewish state and to trade with anyone they want, without however questioning the security arguments Israel uses for imposing restrictions.

"If you resolved some of these issues, you could increase economic activity 50 per cent in six months," Mr. Hooper said.

Parliamentary candidates agree that the Israeli economic stranglehold, widely seen as a devious form of protectionism, is the biggest single obstacle to development.

"What we have to do is break the Israeli hegemony over the economy by ending Israeli control of our imports and exports so that we are free to market our products abroad," said Abdul Fattah Al Nouri, an Islamist candidate for parliament.

Under the present system, all trade passes through Israeli hands, businessmen cannot travel easily and there are tough restrictions on the movement of trucks across political lines.

Mrs. Shbeilat appeals to prime minister

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — The lawyers and the wife of the president of the Jordan Engineers Association, Leith Shbeilat, who is accused of lese majeste, have appealed to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to look into what they described as violations of Mr. Shbeilat's basic rights.

Addressing the prime minister, Rima Shbeilat said that Jordanians of all classes knew Mr. Shbeilat's "honesty and courage" in telling the truth"... and his struggle against the policies of the International Monetary Fund and its famine reform plans".

His place is not in prison, the country and the people need people like Leith," Mrs. Shbeilat said in a letter addressed to the prime minister on Saturday. She charged that her husband's arrest and trial were motivated by political reasons.

Mr. Shbeilat was arrested Dec. 9 on charges of slandering Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. He is also accused of distributing statements that are considered offensive to Their Majesties, undermining the country's financial status and shaking confidence in the Jordanian dinar. The charges carry a maximum sentence of three years.

Mr. Shbeilat was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1993 for charges of plotting against state. He was released following a royal pardon.

In her letter to the prime minister, Mrs. Shbeilat charged that her husband was being held in poor conditions and receiving poor treatment and that he was still being denied the right to meet with his lawyer in private.

Mr. Shbeilat's lawyer, Jawad Yunis, had told the Jordan Times that he had filed several requests for bail and for a meeting with his client privately but they were turned down.

Mr. Shbeilat's defence team withdrew from the State Security Court session on Thursday because the court refused to grant them the right to a private meeting with Mr. Shbeilat before the start of the legal proceedings, the lawyers said. After the lawyers' withdrawal, the court, formed of three civil judges, resumed the session but Mr. Shbeilat refused to talk with the absence of his lawyers," witnesses said.

The session was adjourned until today. The defence team sent an "open letter" to the prime minister to protest of what they described as violations of their defendent's right to a fair trial.

The letter, signed by lawyers Mohammad Tarawneh, Mohammad Rashdan, Rasmi Khaza'i, Ahmad Najdawi, Radwan Nawayesh and Mr. Yunis, said the lawyers had made repetitive demands for a private meeting with their client but all were denied. They described that as a violation of the defence's sacred right for which Jordan was committed after its "ratification of the international conventions on human rights."

The prime minister's office told the Jordan Times that they had not received such a letter.

In another statement faxed to the Jordan Times, Mr. Shbeilat's defence team said that a case they filed last week in the State Security Court, charging that the judges assigned to rule in the case were not qualified, was overruled by the court, despite the fact that two other courts, the Court of First Instance and the court of Cassation, had not ruled on their litigation yet.

Settlers mistreat observer

(Continued from page 1)

the approaches and around the city.

Dr. Majali, who toured election centres in Ramallah, Bireh, Shufat, Beit Hanina and Qalandia, said the Palestinians had to put up with such difficulties for the sake of electing a legislative council.

He said that in areas where no Israeli forces were present the elections went on smoothly and quietly with good order and discipline

Dr. Majali said that the Jordanian team was preparing reports about the elections. The reports will be submitted to the head office of the international observers at a meeting on Sunday.

U.K. under Eurofire over Saudi dissident

STRASBOURG (R) — The European Parliament accused Britain on Friday of sacrificing human rights on the altar of its economic interests.

In a resolution condemning the British government's decision to expel Saudi dissident Mohammad Masari, the assembly said it was "deeply aware of the importance of Saudi Arabia as a source of oil and a trading partner for European Union (EU) member states."

But it rejected "the idea that concern with human rights should be disregarded or suppressed to safeguard economic interests."

It defended the right of Mr. Masari, who has waged a publicity campaign against the Saudi royal family since entering Britain last year, to "advocate reforms peacefully" and said all the member states should fully uphold the right of asylum "for genuine political dissidents."

The British government has indicated that it decided to expel Mr. Masari after Saudi Arabia made clear it could pull out of weapons contracts with Britain unless he was removed.

The decision enraged human rights groups and opposition parties which accused the government of putting commercial interests above the rights of free speech.

But Prime Minister John Major said Mr. Masari had "used his hospitality in this country to wage a campaign to try to bring down the Saudi Arabian regime."

The non-binding European Parliament resolution urged EU ministers to tell the Saudi authorities they must take urgent measures to stop the "serious, widespread and increasing violation of basic human rights in Saudi Arabia."

Mr. Masari, who has lodged an appeal contesting his expulsion, said on Thursday he was talking to his lawyers about the possibility of moving to Germany or Japan.

He said his London-based group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, would not be curbed even if he left Britain.

"We just bring facts to light and give them to the people of Saudi Arabia."

Court to issue verdict on Abu Rishteh Feb. 4

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The State Security Court on Saturday heard the closing argument of the defence in the case of Atta Abu Rishteh, accused of slandering His Majesty King Hussein, opening the way for the court to review the case before announcing its verdict on Feb. 4.

Mr. Abu Rishteh, 43, spokesman of the illegal Hezb Al Tahrir Party, was arrested on Oct., 15, nine days after he was interviewed by Al Hiwar weekly in which he allegedly slandered King Hussein. He is also charged with belonging to an illegal organisation.

In his one-hour closing argument, defence lawyer Abdul Fatah Lafi asked the court not to admit as evidence Mr. Abu Rishteh's confession that he slandered the King.

According to Mr. Lafi, his client should not be charged for statements he made under interrogation.

"The prosecution should only charge my client for his remarks before the questioning, not after or while being interrogated," he told the court.

Mr. Lafi asked the court to acquit his client of all charges because, he said, his client did not slander the King and his interview was based on Islamic Sharia.

Defence witnesses included Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzedine Al Khatib Al Tamimi and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Khayat. The defence sought to prove through the clergyman's testimony that Mr. Abu Rishteh's statements in the interview were based on interpretations of the Islamic Sharia.

In his summation last week, State Prosecutor Major Mahmoud Obeidat asked for the conviction of Mr. Abu Rishteh.

Maj. Obeidat produced a confession by Mr. Abu Rishteh, evidence (the newspaper interview) and one witness, editor of Al Hiwar weekly Adullah Bani Issa, against the defendant.

If found guilty, Mr. Abu Rishteh could receive up to three years imprisonment.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 ..... The Flintstones
14:30 .... Droopy Master Detective
15:00 ..... Family Penthouse
15:10 ..... Mac and Mutley
15:30 ..... Pugwall's Summer
16:00 ..... Voyagers
17:00 Children's Programme — Ordy
17:30 Serie — Les Compagnons De L'Adventure
18:00 Magazine — Envoye Special
9:00 ..... News in French
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30 ..... News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — Are You Being Served
20:00 ..... Cinema, Cinema
20:25 ..... Hawai Five-0 (drama)
21:10 Doc. — Women and the World
22:00 ..... News in English
21:35 ..... Hearbeat
22:25 ..... Counterstrike
23:15 .. The American Chart Show
23:59 ..... Series — Stay Lucky

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 ..... Fajr
06:31 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
11:47 ..... Dhuhr
14:38 ..... 'Asr
17:03 ..... Maghreb
18:23 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with skies sunny to partly cloudy and winds easterly moderate. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	1 / 12
Aqaba	8 / 20
Deserts	0/ 13
Jordan Valley	6 / 18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 18 Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhles Mazahrah 820425
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi 894788
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikhah 752405
Dr. Khalid M'addi 743500
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoujh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281741
Alquds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Harzallah 988075
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn, 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malkas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 607155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)
07:30 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
08:35 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
09:20 ..... Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:55 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:20 ..... Larnaca, Beirut (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:45 ..... London (RJ)
18:00 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:25 ..... Athens (RJ)
18:45 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)
19:00 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)
19:50 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
22:10 ..... Rome (RJ)
00:45 ..... Jakarta, New Delhi (RJ)
03:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:30 ..... Sanaa (IY)
12:40 ..... Bahrain (GF)
14:00 ..... Doha (Q7)
14:30 ..... Moscow (SU)
20:10 ..... Beirut (ME)
20:20 ..... Cairo (MS)
23:10 ..... Istanbul (TK)
23:59 ..... London, Beirut (BA)
01:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
08:50 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)
10:30 ..... Tunis (RJ)
11:25 ..... Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:35 ..... Vienna, Rome (RJ)
12:15 ..... Athens (RJ)
20:25 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
20:35 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
21:20 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:05 ..... Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:40 ..... Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)
23:40 ..... Cairo (RJ)
23:45 ..... Damascus (RJ)

Other flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 ..... Beirut (ME)
11:30 ..... Sanaa (IY)
13:30 ..... Doha (GF)
15:00 ..... Doha (Q7)
16:05 ..... Moscow (SU)
21:10 ..... Cairo (MS)
02:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman .... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/ 500
Banana	650/650
Banana (Mukammar)	580/580
Banana (imported)	850/700
Cabbage	80 / 50
Carrot	220/150
Cauliflower	100/50
Cucumbers (large)	150/ 100
Cucumbers (small)	300 / 200
Eggplant	170/ 120
Garlic	900/650
Grape Fruit	220/150
Lemon	300/200
Marrow (large)	80/ 50
Marrow (small)	130 / 80
Onion (green)	120/80
Onion (dry)	200/ 150
Orange	580/450
Pepper (hot)	480 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	480/300
Potato	230/150
Radish	130/80
String Beans	500 / 350
Spanich	120 / 80
Tomato	120/80

هكذا من الأصل

Ambassador Foundation ends operations

Princess Sarvath recognises organisation's contributions

By Alia Toukan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ambassador Foundation, a non-governmental organisation that has worked closely with several of its Jordanian counterparts in the fields of handicap and special education, will end its operations in Jordan by July because of financial difficulties, said Joseph Locke, vice-president of the foundation.

In a meeting with several members of the press at the office of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Dr. Locke said all assistance to the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA), the Al Hussein Foundation for the Physically Handicapped, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS), will be terminated within the next six months.

The foundation, which opened a branch in Jordan in 1983 after consultation with Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, was established in 1975 by the Worldwide Church of God aiming to help people in need, said Dr. Locke.

Although the foundation is a Christian one, added Dr. Locke, its assistance is purely humanitarian, transcending religious lines.

Dr. Locke said the Ambassador Foundation, which is funded by the Worldwide Church of God and individual donations, began facing major financial constraints after the death of Joseph Tkach, former chairman of the foundation, in September of last year. Dr. Locke added that since Mr. Tkach's death, funds for the church have decreased considerably, bringing about a large reduction in allocations available to the foundation in Jordan.

The foundation, which has over 15 different programmes in both developed and developing countries, will shut down its facilities and end its assistance in these countries due to the current financial difficulties, added Dr. Locke, who, along with Daniel Thompson, director of Jordanian projects, were latter received by Princess Sarvath

Among the programmes of the foundation in Jordan are the provision of volunteers at the Al Hussein Foundation for the Physically Handicapped, and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, to assist at both the Jubilee School for gifted students and the National Music Conservatory.

The YWMA centre for special education, founded in 1974 under the presidency of Princess Sarvath, receives technical assistance as well as volunteers from the Ambassador Foundation. The centre also has a vocational training programme which, according to Ghusoon A. Kareh, director of the YWMA centre for special education, "owes the Ambassador Foundation the success of (its) programme which is considered a pioneer in the area."

The YWMA Sheltered Workshop set up in 1987, also under the presidency of Princess Sarvath, is operated with assistance from volunteers provided by the Ambassador Foundation. The workshop attempts to provide a training and working place for graduates of the vocational programme at the Centre for Special Education.

The volunteers, currently numbering 21, are students from The Ambassador University in Texas. They are either in their senior year or are doing graduate studies.

The foundation has also recruited Physical Education instructors for the ABS.

The Ambassador foundation also provided funding and staff to assist in major archaeological excavations in Jordan, especially in the Um Al Jmal area northeast of the Kingdom.

Queen Noor distributes land deeds to Petra's Bdoul tribe, inaugurates the Johann Ludwig Burckhardt Centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday distributed land deeds to 106 members of Petra's Bdoul tribe and inspected their accommodations at Umm Sayhoun, a Royal Court statement said.

The Bdoul tribe, who had been living in the archaeological city of Petra until 1985, were resettled in the village of Umm Sayhoun, which was built by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Bank and the Jordanian government.

The government, and particularly the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, have worked for the last 11 years to register the land and houses in the Bdoul tribe's name.

In his speech, Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Khatib said plans are being formulated to provide for the future needs of the village so that its development will complement the promotion of sustainable tourism in Petra, the statement said.

Later, Queen Noor inaugurated the Johann Ludwig Burckhardt Archaeological Centre, previously known as Camp Nazzal, and attended a presentation by three Jordanian specialists on the conservation of biodiversity in Petra.

Camp Nazzal, which was established in 1934 by the travel agency "Thomas Cook & Sons," was sold to Anton Nazzal, the owner of the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman, in 1936. In 1980, the camp, which has housed many distinguished visitors such as the famous mystery writer Agatha Christie, was returned to the Department of Antiquities and has been used ever since as a "dig house" for visiting archaeological missions.

Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday distributes a land deed to a member of the Bdoul tribe in Petra (Photo by Crystal)

Last May, Petra National Trust (PNT), a society for the preservation of the antiquities, cultural heritage and environment of the Petra region, the Department of Antiquities and the government of Switzerland began a 10-month project for the comprehensive renovation of the Nazzal Camp.

The project, which was finished in a record four months time, was financed by a JD 150,000 grant from the Bilateral Committee of the Jordanian-Swiss Counterpart Fund, the statement said. The camp was subsequently named after the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, who rediscovered Petra for the West in 1812 and converted to Islam assuming the name of "Sheikh Ibrahim ibn Abdullah"

In her remarks, Queen Noor, who is the honorary president of PNT, expressed her appreciation for "the innovative funding from the Jordanian-Swiss Counterpart Fund, which represents a constructive way of facilitating Jordanian foreign debt reduction," the statement said.

She added that the inauguration of the centre continues Petra's well-established legacy of cross-cultural partnership and its role as a meeting place of people from throughout the world, it said.

The president of PNT, His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, said PNT was entrusted with the complete restoration of the centre, which was an example of "successful cooperation between government and non-government agencies, donors and the private sector," the statement said.

Ambassador of Switzerland G.F. Pedotti said Johann Ludwig Burckhardt combined during his life "the spirit of humanism" and expressed his hope that "the same spirit of respect and humanism will continue to guide the future archaeological missions and scholars who will work and live in this new archaeological centre," said the statement.

The director of antiquities, Ghazi Bisheh, said the centre, "served and will continue to serve as headquarters for international teams excavating in Petra, thus embodying the ancient spirit of openness and cooperation which characterised this wonderful city in its heyday," according to the statement.

Johann Ludwig Burckhardt's grandson and President of the Burckhardt Foundation Urs Burckhardt expressed his pride that Jordan has held "the name of Burckhardt in such high esteem," thus honouring the man who put "oriental studies on a new track and laid the groundwork for archaeology, ethnography and anthropology," the statement said.

After the inauguration ceremony, the statement added, Queen Noor and the minister of tourism visited a waste water treatment plant at one of the hotels in Petra and emphasised the critical need for the installation of such plants in all the major hotels of the area.

Her Royal Highness Princess Majda Ra'd accompanied Queen Noor on her visit, the statement said.

Road accident victims to be treated free of charge upon King's directives

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has instructed the government to provide free medical treatment to people who were injured in two road accidents on the Azraq road on Jan 18 and 19, Health Minister Aref Bataineh said Saturday.

Speaking during a visit to Al Bashir Hospital, where the injured people are being treated, the minister said that most of the people who were hurt in the accidents had been discharged from hospital.

The minister instructed doctors at the hospital to give the injured due medical attention until they are discharged.

The Health Ministry said that 57 passengers have been discharged from hospital but eight others are still undergoing treatment and are expected to leave hospital in two days.

In the first accident in the Azraq area on Wednesday, two bus passengers were killed and 33 others were injured. That accident involved two buses with Saudi licence plates and a Syrian registered truck. The passengers were Saudi, Bahraini, Palestinian and Syrian nationals.

In the second accident on the Azraq-Omari road near the Saudi-Jordanian border, two people were killed and 40 injured. Their bus, which had Saudi plates, overturned on the road.

Some of the passengers who suffered serious injuries have been undergoing treatment at the King Hussein Medical Centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAYS

* "Unclothing and the Horse's Move" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

* "Ramadan Supermarket" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Graphic works by Jordanian artist Yasser Dweik at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Luweibdeh (until Feb. 18).

* Contemporary and Traditional Jewellery at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 699141) (until Jan. 31).

* Water colours by several German artists at Goethe-Institut (until Jan. 21).

* Plastic (abstract) art exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina (until Feb. 6).

* Paintings by artist Raphael Chabrol at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 31).

ARA to launch programme to protect marine environment, combat pollution

AQABA (J.T.) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) is teaming up with the Jordan Royal Ecological Diving Society (JREDS) to protect the marine environment and combat pollution in the Aqaba region, according to an official announcement Saturday.

With a $50,000 from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and technical assistance from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the ARA and JREDS will launch what they call the "Comprehensive Public Awareness and Coral Reef Rehabilitation Research and Conservation Programme."

In announcing the programme, ARA President Fayez Khasawneh said the planned projects are part of a national programme aimed at safeguarding the environment in the Gulf of Aqaba.

JREDS will cooperate with the Aqaba Marine Science Station, the ARA, the navy, the Aqaba Ports Corporation, the Royal Diving Centre and other local organisations.

According to Dr. Khasawneh, the project, aims at conserving the biodiversity of the area, reducing pollution to international waters, educating the public on the importance of Jordan's marine environment and advancing the knowledge and understanding of the sea through the promotion of scientific research, data gathering and training programmes on the national and regional levels.

In addition, Dr. Khasawneh said the ARA is involved in the creation of a national peace park on the shores of the Red Sea. The $2 million project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the form of technical assistance, buildings for management and a visitors centre.

The park project, according to Dr. Khasawneh, entails extending facilities and services to beaches along seven kilometres on the southern coast. Such services are to include maritime services, diving and swimming zones, recreational and tourist boats areas and facilities for ensuring full protection to the coral reefs and other natural and marine wealth.

ARA will assume full responsibility for managing and supervising the maritime park, Dr. Khasawneh said, adding that a training course for personnel has already started on means of guaranteeing the safety of tourist boats, divers and swimmers.

Man kills himself after shooting wife in front of four-year old son

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 28-year-old man, whom official reports described as mentally ill, Friday shot and killed his wife following an argument, then committed suicide in his house in the Nazal suburb, official reports said.

According to a Public Security Department (PSD) report, Hani Saleh Hasouneh quarrelled with his wife Yasmin Khamis, 25, became angry and shot her twice in the head and chest, then shot himself in the head.

The reports said that the couple's four-year-old child, who was the only witness to the incident, told police that he heard his parents arguing "then he saw his father shooting his mother, then shooting himself."

Police said they seized the gun used in the incident and were investigating the incident.

Meanwhile, one person died and eight, all from the same family, were listed in fair condition Thursday, after inhaling carbon monoxide in the Hussein suburb in Mafraq, according to PSD and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

The reports said that a next-door neighbour of the family heard one of the children cry and when she went to check the matter she found all nine family members unconscious and the smell of gas in the room.

A police official told the Jordan Times Saturday that preliminary investigations indicated that "apparently gas was emitting from the (kitchen) stove and spread through the house."

At the same time, the official added, there was not enough air circulating in the room.

The CDD report identified the deceased as Ayman Thafi Kayed, 15. The remaining eight family members, including their 35-year-old mother, were taken to Mafraq Government Hospital.

In Amman, two people were killed and two were listed in fair condition early Saturday morning following a road collision at the Fourth Circle intersection, PSD and CDD reports said. The accident brought the total number of people killed in road accidents in the past 72 hours to six. Dozens more were injured in the same time span.

According to CDD reports, the accident, which occurred at 6:00 a.m., involved a vehicle driven by a 43-year-old man and a bus driven by Ibrahim Zawahreh, 47.

Official sources said that the accident occurred as both vehicles were speeding and ran a red light, slamming into each other.

The strong impact caused the death of the driver of the vehicle, Taysir Da'jeh, and Ahmad Okab Mohammad, 44, who was riding with him, the CDD report said.

The driver of the bus, who was accompanied by his wife Fatmeh Mustafa, 33, suffered from fractures and bruises. They were taken to Shmeisani Hospital and were listed in good condition.

Abul Ragheb to attend Jordanian-Syrian company meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Saturday arrived in Damascus for a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with Syrian officials and attend a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Company.

Mr. Abul Ragheb will co-chair the board and general assembly meetings of the company along with Ahmed Nitham Al Deen, the Syrian minister of Industry. The meetings will discuss topics connected with the company's activities during 1995 and plans for the coming years.

The joint company serves as an umbrella for the White Cement Factory set up in southern Jordan and a wall-to-wall carpeting factory, located in Syria.

Mr. Abul Ragheb will also co-chair a meeting of the general assembly of the Joint Free Trade Zone Company along with Syrian Minister of Economy and External Trade Mohammad Imadi to discuss company issues, endorse next year's plans for the company's investments and expand the free trade zone operations.

Ali Abul Ragheb

Mr. Abul Ragheb will discuss with Dr. Imadi Jordanian-Syrian economic relations and will conduct a revision of the bilateral economic agreement signed in 1975 and the protocols emanating from that agreement.

The Damascus talks are the first by the two sides since a Syrian-Jordanian meeting held in Amman last August when senior officials from the two countries signed an agreement to regulate overland transportation.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

AN INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY, BASED IN JORDAN IS SEEKING A FRENCH-UNIVERSITY GRADUATE (MALE/FEMALE)IN PHARMACY OR SCIENCE.

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES MAY SEND THEIR C.V. TO FAX NO. 817102, OR CALL TEL : 865882,3,4 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER.

Russia says troops caught 9 more Chechen hostage takers

MOSCOW (R) - Russian forces caught another nine Chechen rebels trying to flee the aftermath of a bloody hostage crisis in southern Russia, raising the number of guerrillas captured to 39, Interfax News Agency said Saturday.

It quoted a spokesman for Russian forces in Chechenya as saying 10 rebels had tried to leave the hostage village, Pervomaiskoye, Friday, but one rebel was killed and nine men, a grenade launcher and six guns seized.

Interfax, reporting from the Chechen capital Grozny, did not say if "lone wolf" rebel leader Salman Raduyev was among them. The report could not be independently confirmed.

President Boris Yeltsin said Friday that 153 rebels had been killed and 30 captured out of a force of 300 who raided the town of Kizlyar and took dozens of hostages to Pervomaiskoye near the Chechen border.

At least 43 civilians died in the crisis. Pervomaiskoye was demolished by Russian artillery, which pounded the village for three days, allowing Russian forces to seize it Thursday and leaving the mangled bodies of Chechen rebels lying in ditches.

But at least half the rebels, apparently including Raduyev, managed to flee and slip over the border into Chechenya.

Mr. Yeltsin said Russian casualties totalled 27 soldiers killed and 93 injured. He said earlier that 82 of about 100 captives had been freed by Russian forces.

Meanwhile Chechen guerrillas are still holding hostages taken in Dagestan and are treating them as prisoners of war, top rebel Commander Aslan Maskhadov said Saturday.

"The hostages, whom we call prisoners of war, such as Omon (special forces), soldiers and policemen, are alive and well and being held on Chechen territory," he said.

Commander Maskhadov would not say how many were being held, but that if any civilian hostages had been taken from the Dagestani village of pervomaiskaya into neighbouring Chechenya, they would be released.

"We told the Dagestani authorities that we are ready to give them all the hostages. Only the PoWs will stay with us. They can come and take their hostages any time," Commander Maskhadov said in the eastern Chechen town of Novogrozny.

"The PoWs will be sorted out as PoWs," he said. "We had three of ours taken prisoner there (in Dagestan) and we need to free them."

Chechen guerrillas, who took about 150 hostages in the southern Russian Republic of Dagestan, broke out of encircling Russian troops before dawn Thursday and fought their way to the border.

Most of the guerrillas made it home, Commander Maskhadov said.

"Our figures are that 20 fighters died, the rest are in Chechenya. There were a lot of wounded," he said.

Dagestan was mourning Saturday for the victims of the hostage drama.

Dagestan's legislature decided Friday that national flags should be lowered and all entertainments cancelled until Sunday in memory of those who died in raids on the town of Kizlyar and the village of Pervomaiskoye by Chechen gunmen.

As Dagestan counted its dead, Turkish officials managed Friday to persuade a group of pro-Chechen gunmen to release some 200 hostages, mostly Russians, seized on a ferry Tuesday in the Black Sea port of Trabzon.

The seven or eight gunmen gave themselves up to Turkish authorities, ending a four-day crisis during which they threatened to blow up themselves and the hostages.

Interfax News Agency quoted Dagestan officials as saying 35 people were killed in Kizlyar and another eight in Pervomaiskoye. This figure did not include casualties among the hostages in Pervomaiskoye.

The head of Dagestan's Legislative Council, Magomedali Magomedov told Interfax that 95 per cent of houses in Pervomaiskoye, once a home for 300 families, were completely destroyed while all others were badly damaged.

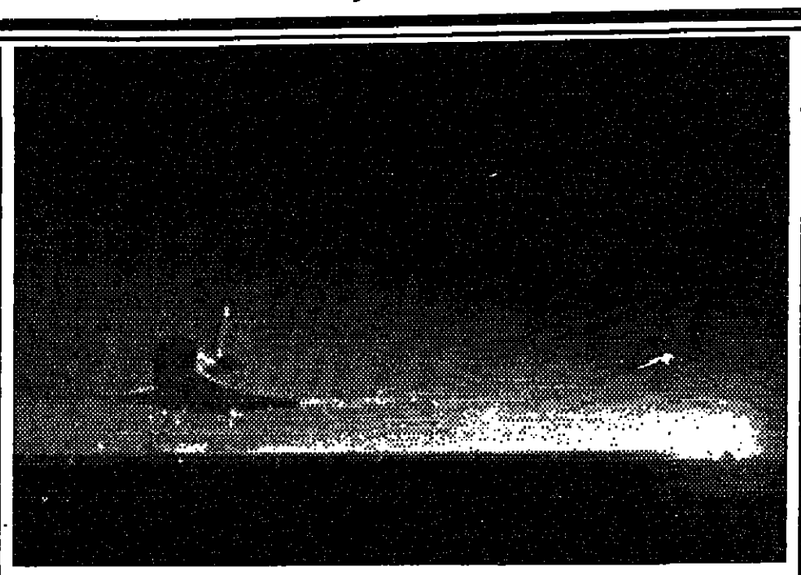
Leading newspapers unleashed Friday a barrage of criticism saying the violent storm of Pervomaiskoye was unnecessary.

But the State Duma, the newly-convened lower house of parliament, threw out a motion to discuss the handling of the hostage crisis.

Mr. Yeltsin shrugged off media criticism.

"The operation was planned and carried out correctly," he said. "We grieve about this (casualties) but we had no other way out."

A wounded Chechen gunman lies on a hospital bed. The gunman was one of the Chechen rebels who escaped to Chechenya from the village of Pervomayski. Russian television said today, that Chechen rebel leader Salman Raduyev has escaped to Chechenya and is offering to swap the remaining hostages for the injured Chechen men abandoned at Pervomayskoye (Reuter photo)



The space shuttle Endeavour touches down at the Kennedy Space Centre Saturday, ending an eight-day satellite retrieval and scientific mission. It was the third night landing at the Space Centre (Reuter photo)

Shuttle lands at end of 9-day mission aimed at building space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AFP) — Space shuttle Endeavour returned here early Saturday making an unusual nighttime landing capping a nine-day mission focused on the planned international space station.

Endeavour landed at the kennedy Space Centre here at 2:42 a.m. (0742 GMT), only the third night landing in U.S. shuttle history.

During the mission which began on Jan. 11, the six-man crew, including a Japanese astronaut, retrieved a Japanese satellite and deployed a scientific satellite.

But the mission's most spectacular jobs were two spacewalks, each more than six hours long, in which astronauts tested equipment and techniques that could be used in building the international space station.

During the first spacewalk, last Monday, Daniel Barry and Leroy Chiao tested a portable work platform designed to help future astronauts work in space by reducing time-wasting searches for materials and tools.

They also tested a system which should help astronauts remain stable in space and repaired the installation system for a 100-kilo (220-pound) cord that will furnish electrical current to the station.

On Wednesday Chiao was accompanied by Winston Scott on a second spacewalk. The pair took with them a special tool box designed to hold avionics equipment and tested a new tether to keep space workers from drifting away as they move about outside the future space station.

NASA scientists monitored the astronauts' every move to determine the most efficient movement and work environment that can be achieved in a state of weightlessness.

Chiao and Scott also tested space suits and thermal underwear that NASA hopes will keep astronauts warmer in the bone-chilling cold of space.

The first task on this mission was the recovery Saturday of a three-tonne Japanese scientific satellite, launched last March by a Japanese rocket, that is to be brought back to Earth for study.

Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata operated the shuttle's robot, retrieving the Japanese spacecraft. Two malfunctioning solar panels on the satellite had to be jettisoned into space.

Wakata, 32, is the third Japanese astronaut to travel aboard a U.S. space shuttle, but the first to serve as mission specialist.

In a news conference Friday, Wakata expressed satisfaction with his work.

"I think I had a very valuable experience operating the robot arm," he said. His comments in Japanese were translated into English by an interpreter at Houston Space Centre, Texas.

"Of course I would like to do an EVA sometime," Wakata said, referring to extra vehicular activities — NASA lingo for spacewalks — "But I am satisfied with my work."

"The mission has been extremely successful," Commander Brian Duffy added.

On Sunday the crew launched a scientific satellite that conducted four separate experiments before being retrieved Tuesday.

The mission encountered a small problem with ice buildup in one of the shuttle's two cooling systems earlier in the week that threatened to cut short the space mission by a day, but the crew managed to melt the ice after the second spacewalk Wednesday.

Even though the ice problem had appeared in previous missions, NASA planned to bring home the shuttle Friday, instead of Saturday as scheduled, if it persisted.

The shuttle was forced to alter its course early in the mission to avoid coming too close to a satellite. Without this maneuver, the shuttle would have passed within 1.5 kilometre (0.93 mile) of a deactivated U.S. Air Force satellite, a proximity forbidden by NASA security regulations.

Eastwood, TV presenter have marriage license

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Clint Eastwood and television news presenter Dina Ruiz have obtained a marriage license but have not set a wedding date, Ms. Ruiz said Friday. "I will reluctantly confirm the published reports that we have a marriage license," Ms. Ruiz, 30, said in response to a reporter's question. But she said she and Eastwood, 65, the Oscar-winning star of such movies as The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly, Dirty Harry and Unforgiven, had not set a wedding date. Several British newspapers reported Friday that Eastwood, 65, and Ms. Ruiz planned to wed. Ms. Ruiz is a television news presenter at a television station in Salinas in central California, close to the coastal town of Carmel where Eastwood has a home. The two have dated for about a year, according to local journalists. Ms. Ruiz said she and Eastwood had obtained the marriage license in December, but would not say where. A couple usually obtains a marriage license from a county clerk and it is valid for one year in the state in which it is issued. The London Daily Mirror reported Friday that Eastwood applied for a marriage license while on holiday at his chalet in Hailey, Idaho. Ms. Ruiz has never been married, while Eastwood has had one previous marriage to Maggie Johnson which ended in divorce. Since then he has been romantically linked with a number of other women including actress Frances Fisher, with whom he had a baby.

Burns turns 100 but is too weak to celebrate

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Cigar-chomping actor and comedian George Burns, who has been a fixture in the U.S. entertainment world since the Vaudeville days, turns 100 Saturday but he will not be attending the celebrations in his honour. The combination of a July 1994 fall in his bathroom, in which he suffered head injuries, and a bout with the flu during the past couple of weeks has kept the wise-cracking show business legend at home. He skipped a star-studded dinner in his honour earlier this week at the dedication of a new Cedars-Sinai Medical Research Centre here in his honour and appearances planned for Las Vegas and London. The Las Vegas show at Ceasars Palace sold out 18 months in advance despite the hefty $100 price tag for tickets. Tickets were refunded when it was announced he would not appear. Burns' longtime manager Irving Fein said even though Burns couldn't attend the festivities, he continued to go to the office on most days, played bridge, smoked cigars and had an occasional alcoholic drink. Together with his wife of 38 years, Gracie Allen, the duo honed a comedy act that held up equaly to the rigors of stage, radio and television performances, winning the loyalty of millions that spanned the generations.

Beijing bans dangerous toy, replica guns

BEIJING (R) — The Chinese capital has banned toy and replica guns that do not meet stringent safety standards, Xinhua News Agency said Saturday. Government inspectors found that only five of 24 brands sold on Beijing markets met minimum safety standards, the report said. The others were deemed highly dangerous, especially toy air guns that produced muzzle speeds of 50-80 m/sec (165-260 ft/sec) — enough to put out an eye or cause flesh wounds.

U.K. queen loses patience with Diana and Fergie

LONDON (R) — After years of turning the other cheek to her errant daughters-in-law, Britain's long-suffering Queen Elizabeth is finally getting tough.

This week she said she would not bail out the Duchess of York, who is said by newspapers to have debts of up to £3 million ($4.5 million). Last month, in a leaked letter, she urged Princess Diana to agree to a divorce from Prince Charles, the heir to the throne.

First there was Princess Diana.

At a shy and virginal 19 she seemed just what the royal family needed and her sumptuous wedding in 1981 to Prince Charles was a national triumph.

But Princess Diana quickly grew up, developing a taste for designer clothes and even displaying a personality. Before too long newspapers were reporting ructions in the royal marriage.

The red-haired Sarah Ferguson, nicknamed Fergie, crashed her way onto the sedate royal scene in 1986, when her confident, chummy ways were seen as a breath of fresh air.

But she was soon to become the most ridiculed royal, mocked for her full figure, garish clothes and love of the good life.

Shortly after her separation from Prince Andrew, photographs of her frolicking topless beside a swimming pool with a male companion, her two tiny daughters looking on, were splashed across newspaper front pages in a major embarrassment to the royals.

The queen was more puzzled than anything. "Her daughter-in-law's selfish have-it-all, grab-it-all attitude was simply alien to her," says a new biography of the queen.

Devoted to duty and trained to keep her woes from view, the queen was incapable of understanding two modern young women who railed against an institution that placed dignity above all.

But it was Princess Diana who, in Queen Elizabeth's eyes, committed the greatest sin against the royal family by revealing her marital troubles, via friends, to a tabloid reporter.

The resulting book, published in 1992, portrayed Princess Diana as the tragic victim of a loveless marriage. Prince Charles, brought up in traditionally distant royal style, was incapable of affection and, also in keeping with royal tradition, had a mistress.

The heir-to-the-throne later admitted his infidelity in a television interview.

But Queen Elizabeth clearly regarded it as the duty of a royal wife not to complain about such things.

Reports that her own husband, Prince Philip, has had affairs have been dismissed by her office "as recycled rumours" but she has borne with fortitude — in public at least — his interest in pretty women.

She expected her daughters-in-law to do the same. After all, they had royalty to thank for their celebrity and wealth.

But the queen faces a dilemma over what to do next.

Princess Diana, secure in her evergreen popularity, has told her mother-in-law she is in no hurry to divorce Prince Charles.

And while some legal and political advisers are telling the queen to strip Fergie and Princess Diana of their royal titles, others are warning against this.

"Buckingham Palace should think very carefully before turning its back on the Duchess of York," said Harold Brooks-Baker, an expert on the British aristocracy.

Rwanda genocide probe starts digging up graves

KIGALI (R) — Forensic scientists have begun digging up a mass grave by a Catholic Church in Rwanda to provide evidence for a U.N. tribunal investigating the 1994 genocide of a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus, officials said Saturday.

The exhumations began this week at a mass grave in the Western town of Kibuye.

The scale of the genocide and the vast number of mass graves scattered across the central African country make the exhumations in Rwanda one of the biggest in history.

"The whole country is a cemetery. There are hundreds of mass graves and new ones are being found. This will be the largest mass grave exhumation ever since Nazi concentration camps," a senior forensic expert of the tribunal told Reuters.

The three-month genocide unleashed by Hutu militias and soldiers backed by mobs and even children ended after Tutsi rebels swept to power in July 1994.

In Kibuye, a town on the shores of Lake Kivu, as many as 12,000 Tutsis — almost its entire Tutsi population — are believed to have been hacked to death in April 1994.

A 15-member team of anthropologists, archaeologists and forensic experts have begun the first exhumations in Kibuye at a mass grave outside a Catholic Church, where diggers have been working with picks and shovels since December.

Forensic anthropologists are archivists of death who try to solve murders using tape measures, calipers and other investigative methods and study fragments of skeletons to document evidence of violence.

It was forensic experts who contributed to history by finding the skeletal remains of the infamous and elusive Nazi Doctor Josef Mengele, the angel of death, in Brazil in 1985. They have also investigated killings in Argentina, El Salvador and Cambodia.

In a boost to tribunal efforts to match evidence with witness accounts of the genocide, volunteers led by a U.S. physicians' organisation, Physicians for Human Rights, will be exhuming the mass graves in Kibuye over the next five weeks.

Like archaeologists reassembling pieces of broken pottery, the experts will sift through skeletal remains, ribs, skulls and pelvic bones, piece them together and document the cause of death by studying bullet holes and machete and shrapnel marks.

"Witnesses can lie, but bones don't," said a tribunal official. "The exhumations will provide crucial evidence."

The tribunal, seated in Tanzania, indicted eight Rwandans on genocide charges in December for the killings in Kibuye.

Hundreds of bodies were dumped in the mass grave near the church, where militias hacked their victims to death with machetes and hunted down fleeing Tutsis with grenades after throwing burning tyres into the church to force people out.

The bodies will be X-rayed for signs of trauma and autopsied at a mobile morgue set up in Kibuye. Autopsies of the dead will provide scientific evidence to back prosecutors at trials which are expected to start later this year.

Defence lawyers are expected to challenge at court the very fact that a genocide took place in Rwanda.

The exhumations will provide clearer evidence on civilian killings but experts said it is unlikely anthropologists can tell the victims' ethnicity by studying their skull morphology.

Forest fire moves towards Argentine city

BARILOCHE, Argentina (AFP) — A raging forest fire advanced Friday on Catedral Hill outside this tourist city and threatened a neighbourhood and a ski resort at its base, officials said.

Tourists were evacuated to hotels in the area or private residences while employees helped to fight fires.

Firefighting crews, reinforced by army troops, were working late Friday to contain the fast-moving blaze being driven by fierce winds over tinder-dry vegetation.

The fire started in the afternoon, only hours after president Carlos Menem announced in Buenos Aires that firefighters had contained another forest fire in a nearby valley.

That fire destroyed about 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) of forests in the Valle Del Chalhuaco in the Nahuel Huapi National Park, which includes several ecologically unique forests with trees hundreds of years old.

According to local reporters, columns of flames as high as 30 metres (99 feet) and dense smoke were rising from the most popular tourist destination of the hills that ring Bariloche.

The fires are the latest in nearly three weeks of blazes that have destroyed several thousand acres of forests during the peak of Argentina's summer season, causing the greatest ecological damage in a decade.

The Environment Ministry reported to Mr. Menem earlier Friday that after 17 days of firefighting under often adverse weather conditions that the fires were contained.

Thousands flee after 20 slain in Burundi

NGUNDUZI, Tanzania (R) — Burundi government troops killed about 20 Rwandan Hutus and wounded scores in an attack on a refugee camp in northeast Burundi which sparked an exodus of thousands of refugees, witnesses said Saturday.

Up to 14,000 terrified refugees fled the shooting into Tanzania, already home to over 700,000 Rwandan Hutus who fled civil war in their homeland in 1994.

The news of the latest violent action by the Tutsi-dominated army broke as the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright arrived in Burundi's capital Bujumbura for talks with Burundian leaders on ethnic violence in their country.

The refugees said Wednesday's raid appeared to have been a carefully planned operation by the army, battling Hutu rebels in the countryside, to force them into a second phase of exile.

"So many (Burundi) soldiers came with guns and they started shooting at the people. Twenty were killed and others were badly injured. I saw it with my own eyes," Donisi Nyilansabimana, a 23-year-old woman, told Reuters at a makeshift camp a few kilometres from the Tanzania-Burundi frontier.

Burundi says it is investigating the attack on Mugano Camp that caused the refugee flight. The Tutsi-dominated army had initially linked the attackers to neighbouring Rwanda's former Hutu army, a charge rejected by the fleeing Hutu refugees.

Hutu groups accuse Burundi's army, which is almost entirely recruited from the Tutsi minority, of backing Tutsi extremists who want to force as many Hutus as possible out of the country.

"Soldiers launched a similar attack in December but prevented U.S. from leaving. This time we left," Ms. Nyilansabimana added.

Another refugee who fled Mugano with gunshot wounds said the soldiers opened fire indiscriminately, hitting women and children, and that many people were wounded in the attack.

"I was sitting with my family when the shooting started. I ran a few metres and then fell with my child. We were both bleeding," Speciose Nyandhi said from a hospital bed at Ngunduzi where aid agencies have set up an emergency centre.

Officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said they were treating 15 Rwandan Hutus, all with gunshot wounds, at the ICRC centre in Benaco Camp, Tanzania.

UNHCR officials corrected earlier reports which said some 100,000 refugees were on the move in Burundi, saying there were no further movements of refugees reported in the northern camps.

UNHCR official Colin Pryce said that between 12,000 and 14,000 Rwandan Hutus had crossed into Tanzania and reporters saw them huddled in makeshift camps at Ngunduzi settlement.

Tanzania's President Benjamin Mkapa, alarmed by the latest influx, sent his defence minister and army chief to Ngunduzi Saturday to check on security, government officials said.

Residents of Karachi look at the bodies of four people killed by unidentified persons Saturday. More than 70 people have been killed this month in ethnic, sectarian and political violence in Pakistan's biggest city. Police shot dead five Mohajir National Movement (MQM) activists Saturday, two policemen were wounded in the shoot-out and many weapons recovered (Reuter photo)

Police kill 5 MQM militants in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Police shot dead five Mohajir National Movement (MQM) activists in Karachi Saturday and the bullet-riddled bodies of five other people were found elsewhere in the southern Pakistani port city, police said.

They said that five MQM members, including a leading militant named Rehan Kana, had been killed in a clash with police in district central's Khawja Ajmer Nagri area.

Two policemen were wounded in the shoot-out and many weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades, were recovered. The men were all wanted by police.

MQM sources questioned the police account, but said they were waiting for full details of the incident.

The MQM has called for a strike Sunday in Sind province, of which Karachi is the capital, to protest at what it says is a pattern of torture and extra-judicial killings of its party workers by security forces.

Elsewhere in Karachi, four unidentified bodies were found shot dead in Zaman town in Korangi. All were blindfolded and bore marks of torture. Another corpse was found at Aziz Bhatti in district east, police and ambulance workers said.

Police said there had been no claim of responsibility and it was not immediately clear who was behind the killings.

MQM Senator Ishtiaq Azhar Friday accused the security forces of killing four MQM party workers in the last few days.

"Only in the last few months about 100 workers have been murdered by (paramilitary) Rangers, police and other functionaries of the government," he added.

The government denies that the security forces, which have been engaged in a long-running conflict with MQM militants, torture or kill their opponents in cold blood.

More than 70 people have been killed in Karachi this month and more than 1,950 died in ethnic, sectarian and political violence in Pakistan's biggest city last year.

The MQM is seeking greater rights for Karachi's majority Mohajirs — Urdu-speaking Muslims who fled to Pakistan from India at partition in 1947 and their descendants.

Sri Lankan troops smash Tamil rebel bases in east

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops on the third day of their latest offensive to flush Tamil guerrillas from eastern jungle hideouts have destroyed some 25 rebel camps in the area, defence sources in the east said Saturday.

Troops in Operation Rivikirana captured several large camps and many smaller satellite camps without encountering much resistance from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the defence sources said.

"They (guerrillas) withdrew from camps as troops advanced and began firing mortars from far away," one source said.

One soldier lost his leg to a rebel anti-personnel mine and eleven more have been wounded since Rivikirana was launched Wednesday, he said.

The sources said the operation began on the border of the Polonnaruwa and Batticaloa districts, about 80 kilometres northwest of Batticaloa City.

Its aim is to smash LTTE hideouts that have sprung up in the east since the rebels regrouped in the area after the fall of their northern stronghold to the army last month.

The army captured Jaffna City, centre of a Tamil homeland in the north and east for which the rebels are fighting, after a seven-week offensive.

The rebels have since carried out a series of attacks on the military in the east while cutting power supplies and disrupting transport.

Defence sources said one of the camps captured was a hospital used by the rebels to treat their wounded.

The military has launched limited operations in other parts of the east aimed at cutting off the rebels' access to towns and destroying their hideouts, they added.

The government says more than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year separatist war.

Meanwhile four Tamil political parties expressed disappointment Saturday with the Sri Lankan government's devolution proposals for minority Tamils, saying the proposals fell far short of accommodating Tamil aspirations.

Political analysts said the four parties wielded little influence over the Tamils and that those that did have yet to express their views on the package.

"The proposed constitutional changes embodied in the legal draft fall far short of accommodating the aspirations of our people within the framework of a united Sri Lanka," the four parties said in a joint statement.

They said they would still "prefer to approach the political package proposed by the government, in a positive manner".

The parties are Tamil Eelam Libertion Organisation, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Organisation, People's Liberation Organisation for Tamil Eelam and Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students.

The government presented its long-awaited peace package in legal form Tuesday, labelling it a viable plan to end the island's 12-year ethnic war which has cost 50,000 lives.

The package is to be part of a new constitution which will also see the abolition of the executive presidency, electoral reforms and guarantees of fundamental rights.

It proposes changing Sri Lanka from a "unitary state" to a "union of regions" offering wide powers to Tamils, who make up 17 per cent of this tropical island's population.

The four parties criticised the proposals' failure to address the question of merging the northern and easten provinces into one unit, which they said was a key to solving the conflict.

They said the proposals vested too much power in the centre while the regions "remained deprived of the subjects essential to ensure a meaningful devolution of powers".

They criticised a proposal to seek state protection for Buddhism. Most Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of the population, are Buddhist and most Tamils are Hindu.

All four parties used to support the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) armed struggle for a Tamil homeland in the north and east, but later embraced the political process. Only one, People's Liberation Organisation for Tamil Eelam, is represented in Sri Lanka's 225-seat parliament with three seats.

The Tamil United Liberation Front and Eelam People's Democratic Front, which hold five and nine seats in parliament respectively, have yet to give their views on the package. The LTTE have shunned all invitations to view it.

The package goes to a parliamentary select committee next month and then to parliament, where a two-thirds majority is needed for approval. A national referendum is also to be held.

Sri Lanka's main opposition United National Party, which has 85 parliamentary seats and holds the key to the package passing through parliament, has remained silent on its views.

Bangladesh opposition wants army neutral in poll

DHAKA (R) — Major Bangladeshi opposition parties have asked President Abdur Rahman Biswas to send the army back to the barracks and urged people not to vote on Feb. 15 in what they described as a pre-decided election.

"Pull out the army and send them to barracks because we fear there may be an attempt to involve our national army in the farcical one-party election," they said in a statement following a meeting Friday night.

"We urge the president, who is supreme commander of the armed forces, to ensure that army's image is not put at stake through their use in an election the results of which have been pre-decided," they said.

The parties include the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, the Jatiya Party headed by jailed ex-President Hossain Mohammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami.

The army was deployed throughout Bangladesh on Jan. 1, at the request of the Election Commission, to help police to crack down on illegal arms and explosives ahead of the election.

The opposition has alleged that the troops were being used instead to hunt down government opponents.

Only the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a host of fringe opposition groups, most of them previously unknown, are contesting the 300 parliament seats at stake in the poll.

Addressing an Awami rally near Dhaka Friday afternoon, Sheikh Hasina asked Bangladeshis not to "waste your right to franchise" by participating in a poll she said was designed to perpetuate Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's rule.

"Rather you take a vow to resist such an election and attempts to turn democracy into a mockery," one party leader quoted Mrs. Hasina as saying.

Most opposition parties are boycotting the election in protest against Mrs. Khaleda's refusal to step down and allow a neutral caretaker administration to supervise the poll.

The opposition insists only this could ensure fair voting. Mrs. Khaleda, elected in 1991 in what was billed as Bangladesh's first free poll, has rejected the demands as unconstitutional.

Many BNP activists who failed to obtain party tickets to run in the poll have stood as independent candidates, government officials said.

They said the BNP leadership considered them dissidents and was planning to crush their "revolt" by expelling them from the party or even sending them to jail.

Those opposition groups who have chosen to take part in next month's election have started to encounter protests.

Police arrested four people Friday after hundreds of protesters stormed a news conference by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to formally announce its decision to join the poll.

The protesters damaged the car of NDA chief retired army Colonel Abdur Rashid, police said.

Indonesian ferry sinks in high seas; 54 killed

JAKARTA (R) — Fifty-four people were killed and more than 100 others were missing Saturday after a passenger ferry sank in high seas off Indonesia's westernmost province of Aceh, officials said.

A local Transport Ministry official told Reuters two Britons and one American woman were among the 39 people who survived the Friday night disaster when the ferry, which carried more than 200 people, sank after crashing into rocks.

Nine foreigners were on board the ferry, he said.

"The report we have says 39 people survived, 54 have been confirmed dead and the others are still missing," he said by telephone from Banda Aceh, capital of Aceh, 1,800 kilometres northwest of Jakarta.

The official identified the Britons as Stephen and Caroline and the American woman as Margaret. He gave no other details but said the search was still underway.

The ferry, named Gurita or Octopus, sank after hitting rocks.

It had left Banda Aceh for Sabang, 29 kilometres to its northwest at 7 p.m. (1200 GMT) Friday.

Officials from the Transport Ministry earlier said that the official records said 198 passengers and 16 crew were on board.

"Among them were nine foreign passengers. We haven't got any details of their nationalities," said one official.

The official Antara News Agency said 182 people were missing. It put the number of people on board at 226, including 16 crew members and said the Japanese-built ferry had the capacity to carry 500 passengers.

A navy officer contacted by Reuters in Banda Aceh said Saturday there were strong winds and high waves when the ship had struck rocks.

"The weather is still bad now, making it difficult for the rescuers to search for the missing people," he said.

Greek government to be sworn Monday

ATHENS (R) — New Greek Socialist Prime Minister Costas Simitis will swear in his government Monday after a series of weekend meetings to decide on the cabinet.

Major ministries were expected to change hands and big changes were also on the way on the boards of state companies and banks.

Old Socialist Party faithfuls, many of whom owe their jobs to political favours, will be sidelined in favour of professional technocrats, government sources said.

"The reform will go deep," a Simitis associate, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. "There will be a fresh start with different people with a different way of thinking."

At least seven ministers, confidants of former Premier Andreas Papandreou, looked set to be replaced and their sucessors will be faced by a number of long-pending issues like privatisations.

Mr. Simitis, 59, received a mandate Friday to form a government after the Socialist Party parliamentary group elected him Thursday to replace Mr. Papandreou, who resigned in poor health this week.

"We will be only judged by our deeds and the time until the next elections (October 1997) is short," Mr. Simitis' associate said. "We must persuade our voters that we can do the job without Andreas Papandreou and do it in a better way."

The most striking change was likely to be at the Foreign Ministry where Mr. Papandreou's personal friend Karolos Papoulias looked set to pass the portfolio to his long-standing rival Theodoros Pangalos, the outspoken former European affairs minister.

Other ministers expected to be replaced include the ministers of state Antonis Livanis, of merchant marine George Katsifaras, of public order Sifis Valyrakis, Press Minister Telemachos Hytiris and Justice Minister Yannis Pottakis.

Mr. Simitis was likely to keep National Economy Minister Yannos Papandoniou and Finance Minister Alexandros Papadopoulos, both committed to economic convergence with the European Union (EU) and credited with cutting inflation to single digits for the first time since 1973.

He is also expected to find a cabinet post for former European Commissioner Vasso Papandreou and Socialist Euro-Deputy Paraskevas Avgerinos.

Mr. Simitis is an advocate of more development funds, more privatisation, a realistic foreign policy in the Balkans and greater compliance with European Union standards.

He enjoys the confidence of the markets and is expected to push forward the long overdue partial privatisation of the state telecommunications company OTE and the Public Petroleum Corporation (DEP).

The Athens Stock Market welcomed Mr. Simitis with a 3.73 per cent jump to close at 988.47 points, up 35.5 points. Market analysts said he represented political renewal and was likely to be more effective at absorbing EU funds.

Best remembered for his 1985-87 term as economy minister, when he tried to put a lid on Mr. Papandreou's free-spending welfare policies, the German-educated lawyer and economist was the only candidate for the premiership who did not offer blind allegiance to Mr. Papandreou's policies.

His cry for reform touched Socialist deputies worried about the 1997 elections. His main rivals in the succession race, Interior Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos and Defence Minister Gerassimos Arsenis, appeared too close to Mr. Papandreou.

Protesters rally against racism after German fire

LUEBECK, Germany (R) — More than 1,000 demonstrators rallied against racism in the north German city of Luebeck Saturday, two days after a fire killed 10 residents of a hostel for foreigners.

Some carried placards demanding Germany grant asylum to all refugees. Others blamed the German state for what they called the "racist and fascist massacre" in the hostel which housed refugees from Zaire, Togo, Syria and Lebanon and ethnic German immigrants from Poland.

The demonstrators, many of them Africans and Arabs, planned to march from a central market square to the burned-out building where investigators were still searching painstakingly for clues about how the fire began.

Forensic specialists have had no success so far in establishing what started the fire, the worst catastrophe ever to hit a home for asylum-seeking refugees in Germany, a Fire Department spokesman said.

Rescuers said they did not expect the death toll to rise further after four residents who had been listed as missing were found among victims of the blaze being treated in hospital.

Snow meltdown causes big floods in U.S. east coast

WASHINGTON (R) — Another winter storm belted the United States Friday, this time adding torrents of rain and flooding to the woes of the previously snow-battered east as well as bitter cold in the midwest.

Less than two weeks after massive snows paralysed the northeast, unusually warm temperatures followed by strong winds and rain wiped away the white face of many cities and towns.

"What's been hurting the east has been the exceptionally mild air in front of the cold front," said Ken Reeves, senior meteorologist at Accuweather in State College, Pennsylvania. "The rain on top of about a foot of snow melting produced a tremendous amount of water."

State officials activated the National Guard in Pennsylvania and Virginia to help control flooding and rescue affected people. Some schools closed down, airports reported delays and hundreds of roads were submerged in murky brown water.

Unusually warm temperatures Friday, including highs of 55 F (13 C) in both New York and Boston, accelerated the melting throughout the region, according to the National Weather Service.

In Washington D.C., the rains ushered in the comprehensive snow removal programme city officials were unable to deliver despite innumerable promises over a two-week period. Even the White House earlier this week had noted ice still made walking around the nearby grounds rather hazardous for top officials.

In Pennsylvania, perhaps the most flood-threatened region, several inches of rain helped wipe away a foot of snow, Mr. Reeves said. Local officials said some people were rescued from their rooftops in western Pennsylvania Friday after flood waters invaded their homes.

Forecasters said that rivers and streams may reach their highest levels Saturday as the rains and melting snows continue downstream.

In New York City, winds gusting to nearly 60 mph (95 km) blew windows out of high rises, blew down scaffolding and knocked a large chunk of metal from the dome of the U.N. General Assembly building.

Residents of the upper midwest meanwhile dug out in the aftermath of the cold front that pushed through to the east after sending temperatures plunging. Wind chills were recorded at minus 80 F (minus 62 C) across northern Minnesota.

TV: Britain urged to drop N. Ireland arms stance

DUBLIN (R) — A U.S.-led panel charged with breaking a stalemate in Northern Ireland peacemaking will urge Britain to stop demanding that the IRA disarm before its spokesmen are allowed to join peace talks, according to a television report.

BBC Television's Newsnight programme said Friday the committee headed by former U.S. Senator George Mitchell will make the recommendation when it publishes its report for the British and Irish governments next Wednesday.

Instead it will recommend that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and its Protestant loyalist foes start surrendering their weapons in stages at the same time as round-table talks are held to forge a lasting Northern Ireland settlment.

Mr. Mitchell has refused to divulge what will be in his report.

Italy moves closer to ending crisis

ROME (R) — Italy's political crisis moved closer to resolution as President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro called a second quick round of meetings with party leaders to hear who they would prefer to see at the head of the next government.

Mr. Scalfaro was scheduled to hold 17 separate meetings, from 9 a.m. (0800 GMT) until 5.30 p.m. (1630 GMT) Saturday, as optimism grew among political leaders that a deal on forming Italy's 55th government since World War II could be in reach.

Technocrat Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, who resigned last week, has been widely tipped to be asked by Mr. Scalfaro to form a new government when the talks end. Mr. Scalfaro has already spent all week in talks with institutional figures and party leaders.

Key players on both sides of the bitterly divided parliament said Friday they agreed on the need for a government with cross-party support to work on the constitutional and electoral reforms Italy badly needs for greater political stability.

But dispute over the style of reform threatened to split the centre-right Freedom Alliance of ex-Premier Silvio Berlusconi.

"I believe it is possible to reach an agreement on reforms and I'm working towards that goal," said Mr. Berlusconi, who has said he would now be willing to give up his drive for a snap general election in the interests of Italy.

However key ally Gianfranco Fini, whose far-right National Alliance (AN) is the third-biggest party in parliament, appeared cooler, insisting after meetings with junior partners on the need for "discontinuity with the outgoing government".

Asked by reporters whether the Freedom Alliance was united, Mr. Fini said simply: "We'll see."

But junior partners in the centre-right coalition suggested Mr. Fini was not vetoing Mr. Dini as prime minister-designate.

"Fini is concerned with the merit of the problems, not names," Pierferdinando Casini, leader of the small centrist CCD party, told reporters after a meeting with Mr. Fini.

An opinion poll Friday suggested Mr. Dini would be popular if he were asked back to head the next government. A quarter of respondents said he was the best prime minister Italy had had for years and 45 per cent said he had been good for the country.

If agreement can be reached, the next government will have the giant task of overseeing a cross-party drive to rewrite Italy's outmoded 1948 constitution.

Thorny questions include single or dual-round voting systems and whether Italy should pick its prime minister with a French-style system in which an elected president appoints the prime minister directly. Under the current system, the president picks a premier, who then has to be ratified by parliament.

Massimo D'Alema, leader of the ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left, said agreement was possible and if reforms could be achieved, Italy could hold an election under new rules in 1997.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 684311, 699634
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Vote for free Palestine

BY TODAY the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank will have elected the first representative council and president in their history. On the other hand, and for the first time in 27 years, the Palestinians have been able to exercise their political rights, placing themselves well on the road to building democratic institutions and their own state.

For the full length of the occupation, the Palestinians were deprived and dispossessed, but now they have the advantage of starting anew.

In the post-election era they can write a new constitution and new laws, through which they can translate their yearning for freedom, democracy and pluralism into reality. The formulation of a modern constitution that would take into consideration the experiences of other nations, near and far, is an advantage that cannot be dismissed.

If their legislators meet the expectations vested upon them, the result will no doubt be the emergence and enactment of democratic laws that can only help the nation-building process. But if the opposite is true, setbacks will follow. For instance, the recent regulations that were printed in local newspapers here, pertaining to the issuance of Palestinian passports that require women to get the approval of their husbands or "guardians" when they apply for travel documents, are an indication that all might not be well with the nascent state. Oppressive and backward practices against women, such as those experienced elsewhere in the Arab World, should have no place in Palestine. Likewise, the recent detention of journalists and human rights activists and the manner in which they were treated, do not auger well for the Palestinians' quest for freedom.

We are hopeful that the new Palestinian council, the representative body of real Palestinian aspirations, will address all issues, with enlightenment and fairness to all. It is true that the real task that awaits the council and its president is to complete the liberation of all the Palestinian lands including Jerusalem. But the other goal, that of liberating the people themselves, is as important and challenging. In fact the two aims go hand in hand. Palestine, land and people, has been waiting for this moment. It is now the responsibility of the Palestinian elected representatives to liberate both in order to build a free and democratic state.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE 3.6 per cent annual growth in Jordan's population is creating a major challenge for social and economic development said Mohammad Barhoumeh, a writer in **Al Ra'i** daily. If allowed to grow at the present rate, said the writer, Jordan's population will be 11 million in three decades, causing a real problem because the demographic pressure will in turn cause heavy strain on economic resources and services and will upset any government-sponsored Socio-economic development plans for improving the situation in the country and raising the people's standard of living. Due to the high population growth rate, the per cent of the population under the age of 15 is 41.4, according to the writer, who said that this young population constitues a heavy burden on the nation since it is an unproductive sector, relying on other family members for a living. The coming century is bound to witness huge challenges represented in scarcity of water resources, pollution of the environment and demographic problems said the writer, who added that the concerned authorities should deal with the population growth rates on the one hand and come up with a package of carefully prepared plans on the other to ensure continued development in an age in which modern technology rather than unplanned population increases have the greater say in a nation's progress.

Mohammad Kawash, a writer in **Al Dustour**, commented on the Palestinian elections by saying that the voting constitutes the first step towards creating a democratic state and paves the ground for Palestinian independence blaming the opposition groups among the Palestinians who refrained from participating in the elections, the writer said that these groups have committed a major blunder and a sin because their staying away will no doubt deprive them of the chance of taking part in the democratic process where their voices could be heard and their views considered. The elected legislative assembly will no doubt win the support of the Arab World and the international community and will win credibility in the eyes of the world, added the writer. However, said the writer, the peace process will remain incomplete and the Palestinian people will not be able to fulfil their national dream as long as Jewish settlers are allowed to continue living amidst the Palestinian population. He said soon after the elections, the ruling Palestinian entity should immediately enter into negotiations with Israel to reach a final settlement to this problem.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Our four politically influenced markets

THE SIZE and potential of four markets of Jordanian exports are, to a certain extent, politically-motivated. Political not economical factors determine the volume of our exports to Palestine, Israel, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Those four markets are so crucial to the Jordanian economy that they should rank high on the agenda of the Jordanian diplomatic effort.

The Palestinian market is obviously very small in absolute figures, but its importance to the Jordanian economy could be over-emphasised. The reason is that the taste or requirements of the Palestinian consumer, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, do not differ in any way from the taste and requirements of the Jordanian consumer. The Jordanian industry, therefore, does not need any sort of adjustment in order to satisfy the needs of the Palestinian market. Exports of Jordan to the West Bank and Gaza have the potential to reach at least $200 million a year, and can double if Jordan were allowed to supply the Palestinian territories with all its needs of refined fuel. Opening the Palestinian market to the Jordanian exports in a big way would help Jordan to absorb a major part of the Jordanian dinars accumulating there. Such market can raise Jordan's overall exports of commodities by 20 per cent and induce a growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of around five per cent. Having full access to this important market needs specific agreements at the political level with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and with the Israeli government.

By contrast the Israeli market is huge in absolute figures, but exporting Jordanian products to Israel calls for a lot of painful, and perhaps costly, adjustment on behalf of the Jordanian industry, especially in regard to specifications. In dealing with the Israeli market, Jordan enjoys relative advantage in agricultural products and light industries, which use conventional technology. Labour wages in Jordan are not higher than 20 per cent of the level of wages prevailing in Israel. However, the Israeli industry has the edge in high technology industries, but this will not hurt Jordanian industry, because the latter is not employing or producing high technology. Thus the Israeli industry will not compete, head on, with the Jordanian industry in the field of high tech products. It will compete with European, American and Japanese products in the Jordanian market. Unlike the Arab economies, there is a lot of complementarity between the Jordanian and the Israeli economies, which should give rise to a big volume of trade between the two countries, provided, of course, that restrictions and obstacles are minimised or eliminated.

The Iraqi market on the other hand is at the top of Jordanian economic interests. It is the largest, with unlimited potential. Jordan dealt with this friendly market extensively for the last 15 years and built good connections and knowledge. The Iraqi market is now at high risk of being lost due to well-known political considerations. Iraq was Jordan's number one trade partner since 1980 and still is.

As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, one should take note of the fact that the balance of trade between the two countries is in favour of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is supposed to be keen about improving its relations with Jordan. However, for some reason, the opposite is taking place and Jordan is running after the Saudis and trying hard to improve relations with them, knowing very well that even a wholehearted reconciliation would not mean that Saudi financial aid to Jordan may be resumed as before. Such financial aid flow cannot be repeated, not withstanding the degree of political rapprochement.

The dangers of NATO's march towards the east

By David A. V. Fisher and William C. Potter

MONTEREY, California — The resignation of Russia's pro-Western foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, is certain to further chill U.S.-Russian relations. In particular, one should expect an escalation in the war of words over what has been the central irritant in the post-cold war superpower relationship — NATO's march towards enlargement.

In Western eyes, NATO is the weapon that for more than four decades kept at bay the threat of a Soviet conquest of Europe. An integral part of that deterrent was NATO's nuclear umbrella. We know that NATO never was nor will be a military threat to Russia. But this is not how the Russians saw it and still see it. For four decades, it seemed to them a nuclear threat to their very existence, the more so since the West explicitly kept open the option of using nuclear weapons to counter an overwhelming Soviet conventional attack.

By extending NATO's umbrella (including its integral nuclear component) to cover the four current candidates, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, NATO's frontiers will move some 400 miles closer to Moscow and the Russian heartland. Moreover, the military tables have turned. NATO's conventional forces, with their smart weapons, are probably more than a match for the shrunken and demoralised successors to the Red Army.

Having so recently freed themselves from Moscow's diktat, one can understand the wish of the four candidates to embrace NATO as a guarantor of independence. The eastward shift also may have an attraction for some German conservatives. If hostilities had broken out during the cold war, the first nations to be devastated would have been the two Germanies; once Poland and the other candidates are in NATO, the front line will move to Eastern Europe.

Russians generally deplore these lines of argument, although some may understand them. But in our experience, Russians utterly fail to comprehend what U.S. interest could be served by moving NATO frontiers towards Moscow.

And where no obvious U.S. incentive is visible, more sinister movites are sought. Having seen the Soviet Empire and the Soviet Union disintegrate, perhaps the United States, or some circles in the United States, want to administer the coup de grâce — to shatter the Russian possibility of a Russian challenge to U.S. predominance.

The carnage in Chechenya, strains over Bosnia, Boris Yeltsin's personality and debilities, the failure of the market to rescue the Russian economy, the rising tide of hardline nationalism, a new generation of U.S. congressmen less engaged and less interested in foreign policy, threats to eviscerate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and now the expansion of NATO nurture distrust and misunderstanding on both sides. The easy dialogue of the Gorbachev years seems to have disappeared. Dangers lurk when the most powerful nations begin to misjudge each other.

While NATO expansion might bring some tangible short-term benefits to the West, it would carry a heavy political cost. It would almost certainly guarantee that the Duma would refuse to ratify one of the major achievements of the Bush administration, the START II treaty. Although some hardliners in Washington and Moscow might welcome this, the demise of START-II would be a major blow to worldwide hopes for further nuclear disarmament and call into doubt repeated commitments of the United States and Russia. It thus would be seen by many as bad faith on the part of the nuclear-weapons powers, aggravated by French and Chinese testing and uncertainty about meeting the 1996 deadline for a comprehensive nuclear test ban. International support for nuclear nonproliferation would suffer.

The fatal flaw in the logic of NATO expansion is that it equates formal military guarantees with enhanced security for the states of Eastern Europe. In fact, the best guarantee of the independence and territorial integrity of the fledgling new democracies in the former Eastern Bloc is economic integration with the West. With this in mind, Western Europe should speedily integrate them into the European Union, as has been done with Austria, Sweden and Finland, each of which appears to feel secure as part of a European community that has increasingly common foreign and defence policies, and none of which has any intention of joining NATO.

In the context of the treaty that secured the reunification of Germany, it was agreed that no nuclear weapons should be deployed on the territory of the former East Germany. If an expansion of NATO cannot be avoided, a similar commitment regarding the territories of the four candidates could provide some assurance to Russia and thereby enhance prospects for START-II ratification.

It is uncertain if a nonnuclear commitment would be sufficient to overcome deep-seated Russian concerns about NATO expansion. Such a pledge, however, would indicate clearly that NATO had no intention of moving its nuclear warheads closer to Moscow. It also would send a friendly signal to the new Russian foreign minister that the West was sensitive to Moscow's security perspectives and would refrain from playing Russian roulette.

Mr. Fischer is distinguished scholar in residence at the Centre for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Mr. Potter is director of that centre and of the Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies at the institute. They contributed this comment to the Herald Tribune.

Yeltsin ends hostage siege but may not be winner

By Timothy Heritage
Reuter

MOSCOW — Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared victory at the end of a week-long hostage crisis on Thursday, but he may be a loser in political terms.

Mr. Yeltisn, with one eye on a presidential election in June, hoped to toughen his image by standing firm against Chechen rebels holding about 100 hostages in the southern village of Pervomaiskoye since Jan. 10.

But an all-out military assault to free hostages lasted over three full days and prompted fierce criticism of the president. The crisis also spilled beyond Russia's borders when pro-Chechen gunmen hijacked a Black Sea ferry last week.

The final verdict on Mr. Yeltsin's handling of the crisis and its political implications may wait until it is clear how many hostages died and whether the use of force was justified.

"It's too early to say what the impact on Yeltsin will be," said Sergei Markov, a political analyst at the Moscow office of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think-tank.

"Everyone must look at the casualty figures because that is what public opinion will depend on. Most of all it will depend on how many hostages were killed and then on how many Russian soldiers died."

Mr. Yeltsin told reporters 26 Russian servicemen had been killed since Russia launched its assault on the rebels on Monday. An Interior Ministry official told Interfax news agency that the corpses of 153 rebels had been found.

Mr. Yeltsin said 82 hostages had been freed and 18 were unaccounted for. But the total number of hostages held had been vague and Mr. Yeltsin did not make clear if the latter figure included captives who were known to have been killed.

"We have taught (Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar) Dudayev a sound lesson and we now need to deliver blows to all the Dudayev strongholds where there are no civilians to do away with terrorism on Russian soil," the 64-year-old Kremlin chief said.

Mr. Yeltsin's only hope of turning an almost no-win situation to his advantage had been to stand firm against the gunmen but somehow ensure as few hostages as possible were killed.

He held out against the rebels' demands for talks and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechenya, where they are trying to quell the rebels' bid for independence from Moscow.

But he has been lambasted by politicians on almost all sides and criticism is sure to continue now the crisis is over.

"Public reaction so far has been mixed, but I'm not sure Mr. Yeltsin will win many points," said Andrei Kortunov, an analyst at the independent Russian Science Foundation.

"Liberals and communists have criticised him for different reasons and will do so now. The liberals will say the death toll is too high. The nationalists will say he was right to use force but the military failed to do it efficiently enough."

Russia's armed forces have already been humiliated in the 13-month-old war in the rebels' north Caucasus homeland.

Before the denouement, the assault on Pervomaiskoye had also been criticised, mostly because Russia appeared to be hammering away with a heavy fist when a delicate operation might have been more suitable.

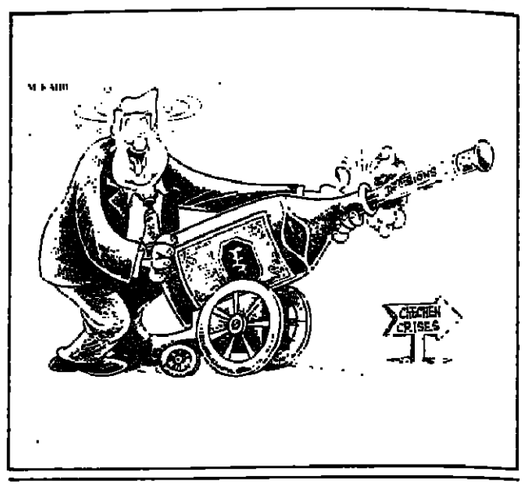
"Had we been asked to conduct such an operation we would have chosen a surgical operation rather than the massive frontal use of force," U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said in Washington on Wednesday.

Mr. Kortunov added: "Yeltsin will be criticised for demonstrating his inability as commander-in-chief of the armed forces and his actions encouraged, rather than discouraged, the spread of terrorist actions."

He was referring to the hijack of a Black Sea ferry by gunmen backing the Chechen rebels in their struggle with Moscow.

Mr. Yeltsin's hopes, and those of his armed forces, of emerging from the crisis looking strong will also be dented if reports the rebels' commander, Salman Raduyev, had fled are confrimed.

The dilema is not over for Mr. Yeltsin, just back at work in the Kremlin after his second heart attack in four months.



'Management by uncertainty'

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

THERE ARE three basic theories of management. The first theory assumes that people are lazy and need to be motivated to work and be continuously supervised to avoid shirking. The second assumes that people are self-driven and the supervisor needs only to set reasonable goals and objectives for them. Any performance evaluation is based on long-run observations by the manager and the employees' long-run achievements. William Ouchi, a management scholar, outlined the third theory of management and called it theory Z. In this theory he underscored the different aspects and ingredients of Japanese management, where group decision-making and participation of the line workers in managerial decisions is a normal practice. This style of management creates employee loyalty to the firm as they merge with management.

Jordanian managers in general and especially those employed in the public sector have invented a fourth style of management. I will call this style "management by uncertainty" where the manager hides and hoards information from other managers and his employees in order to be the only one who knows what is going on. The following are the salient features of this managerial approach.

A. Information Blackouts

☆ The manager must know everything that his employees do. Peeping through keyholes and opening his employee's mail are considered normal practices by many Jordanian managers.

☆ The manager collects all the necessary information about his unit and its functions while denying his employees access to this information.

☆ The manager makes it extremely difficult for the employees to obtain this information from outside sources without his/her permission and approval. This practice was used in old Japan by the Samurai landlords who destroyed bridges and roads between villages so that their farmers wouldn't know how the other farmers were being treated in neighbouring villages. Although it took a war to wipe out this managerial style, the Samurai class has ceased to exist in modern Japan and Japan has flourished since.

B. Information Processing

☆ All reports have to be directed to the manager and must be sanctioned by him before they proceed to upper management. In principle, this practice ensures his control of what is heard and seen by top management.

☆ Any report writing or analysis must be done at the request of the manager. An analytical employee who writes good analytical reports is viewed as a threat to the manager and must be stopped before being noticed by the top management.

☆ If the manager is involved in writing a report to his superiors he makes sure that he receives the input of all his employees to improve the final product. He is then relieved by their ignorance and his superior knowledge.

☆ The manager occasionally humiliates his employees in front of each other to demonstrate his intellectual superiority and power. Divide and conquer: It is best if the employees are divided to facilitate control of the group.

C. Decision-making

A "good" Jordanian manager doesn't let the day go by without making a new influential friend. The best way to do this is by blocking the normal flow of operations. If somebody approaches him with the proper paper work for his signature, he refuses to sign it due to some fictious reason. The applicant finds an influential relative of his who knows someone that knows the manager who in turn contacts him and asks for a personal favour: Signing the document. It is a good way to become known and influential.

☆ A "good" manager never makes waves because Jordan is a small country and one never knows who the other guy's "Wasta" is. Influential enemies will cap one's career early and for a very long time.

D. Hiring

☆ "Good" managers hire their unqualified relatives and friends because they can trust them not to make waves. Why? Because the relatives' survival in the organisation will depend upon the manager's continuance in his post.

☆ "Good" managers generally hire unqualified people because the dumber the employees the brighter the manager looks. On the other hand, appropriately qualified workers will cause an unqualified manager many headaches by exposing his inadequacies. Remember that there is more than one way to win a race: You can win a race by simply being the best or by tripping the other guy.

☆ "Good" managers hire people only through "Wasta". One never knows when he will need "Wasta" himself.

E. Performance evaluation

☆ "Good" managers in the public sector never worry about a person's performance, they just worry about who the person is.

☆ "Good" managers in the private sector never give an employee his/her true worth unless the person threatens to quit.

The above are the main characteristics of Jordanian management which I have observed in the last year-and-half. Organisations are run as a one man show and by stars, not by laws and regulations that relate to the worker. There is no institutionalism in either the private or public sector. Thousands of employees are managed by "uncertainty" which alienates them form their jobs. "Management by uncertainty" doesn't create a positive business environment where trust, cooperation, creativity and efficiency will flourish.

Obviously, we must get rid of these practices but this is easier said than done. All people from all walks of life have to reevaluate their ways of doing business. However, many concrete legislative steps toward change can be taken. These steps are: privatisation of the public sector; changing legislation to penalise nepotism, discrimination and corruption; replacement of present management with new, better trained managers or the provision of training to those that can't be replaced. The present Jordanian style of management is devastating the talents of our people. A change in management style is necessary, let's not wait too long.

Hamas buries 2 slain members

(Continued from page 1)

ere implicated in the shoot-gs.

"The ramifications of the lling prove subterfuge on e part of (Palestinian) ents in an extermination eration," said the Amman-sed Hamas spokesman, rahim Ghosheh.

Although he did not direct-blame the PNA for the lling, he said: "The opera-n was carried out in the lf-rule area and the author-should explain how it hap-ned."

He spoke of growing ten-n in Jenin, which was cor-med off in the wake of the cident.

Mr. Ghosheh told AFP at the soldiers "shot at the hicle of the three Hamas tivists from a far distance, ore than 500 metres, and is shows that the Israelis re tipped off on the colour d model of the car from ents inside Jenin."

He drew a parallel between iday's killing and the assas-nation on Jan. 5 of the ovement's master bomb-aker Yahya Ayyash, who s killed when a mobile ephone blew up in his face the autonomous Gaza rip.

Mr. Ghosheh categorically futed remarks made by a nior Palestinian leader, ahmoud Abbas, who said at Ayyash was ready to nounce armed struggle and e himself up to the PNA.

"These remarks are oundless. Hamas is car-ng out internal investiga-ns and they will take some ne before they shed light on assassination," he added.

A spokesman for the Popu-Front for the Liberation Palestine (PFLP) defied movement's Damascus-sed leadership and voted in Palestinian general elec-ns.

"My participation in the election proves that my membership in Palestine is stronger than my membership in the Popular Front," Riyadh Malki told journalists after voting in Ramallah.

The PFLP, led by George Habash, is vehemently opposed to the limited self-rule agreements which led to Saturday's elections.

A senior PFLP official said Mr. Malki had effectively removed himself from the movement by choosing to take part in the elections.

"All those to participate in the vote disobey the decisions of the central committee and are considered outside the front," said Abdul Latif Gheith.

PFLP sources said the PNA arrested another of the party's Ramallah spokesman, Ahmad Saadat, Wednesday night and detained two young militants in a pre-dawn raid Saturday.

There have also been reports of PFLP activists being arrested in other Palestinian towns for the handing out leaflets calling for a boycott of the elections.

Earlier, Abla Saadat, wife fo the detained PFLP spokesman, said she had been told by Palestinian officials that her husband was being held on direct orders from PNA leader Yasser Arafat and would not be released until after Saturday's election.

He was detained Wednesday, she said.

Palestinian police also arrested four PFLP militants early this week near Bethlehem in connection with the wounding of an Israeli civilian by gunfire. Israeli officials also blamed the PFLP for the shooting deaths of two Israeli soldiers Tuesday night near Hebron.

Letter from Al Mawasi

By Alain Epp Weaver

THE WESTERN edge of Khan Yunis refugee camp affords the first-time visitor a spectacular view of the Mediterranean Sea. No more than 2 kilometres away from the camp the sea rolls in to meet a verdant strip of land called Al Mawasi. The term mawasi, a local farmer informs me, designates low-lying coastal lands where sweet groundwater lies only one or two metres below the surface; the Gaza Strip mawasi runs from Khan Yunis down to the Egyptian border next to Rafah. The mawasi also happens to lie in what the Cairo agreement, signed by Israel and the PLO in May, 1994, calls a "yellow area," that is an area still under Israeli military rule. Its Palestinian residents are fenced in by the sea to the west and the Gush Qatif settlement bloc in all other directions.

Approximately 5,000 people from around 25 families live in Al Mawasi, spread out along the length of the coast, concentrated into extended family groupings. While many houses are without electricity, and the area has no social services, forcing locals to trek to Khan Yunis or Rafah for education or health care, Al Mawasi's farms are second to none in the Gaza Strip.

The political situation under which Al Mawasi's inhabitants live, however, is in stark contrast to its idyllic greenery. Israeli military occupation is a continuing fact of life, the "autonomy" enjoyed by other Gazans a distant reality. As one of the "yellow areas" delineated by the Cairo agreement, Al Mawasi falls under two authorities: Israel retains control of security, while Palestinians are in charge of civilian affairs.

The agreements define Israel's security authority in the "yellow areas" as overriding, with the result that things are not much different than they were in the "old days" of occupation: Israel maintains a tight control over land, housing and water. Farmers, for example, point out a new road built on confiscated land leading from a settlement straight to the sea. Two months ago the Israeli military declared a curfew here and stationed 10 soldiers on top of each of the houses adjoining the planned road and stayed there until its completion.

Although the Cairo agreement gives Palestinians the theoretical right to build structures in the "yellow areas," in practice no new houses are built and many structures remain uncompleted, because Israeli soldiers turn back any truck with building supplies at the entrance to Al Mawasi. And any new structures are subject to demolition. Last year the Israelis demolished several cement "cabins" built for Palestinians taking holidays by the sea, claiming that they were unlicensed.

New wells are also forbidden, although a friend points out to me a recently dug well; "the farmers know new wells aren't allowed," he explains, "but some of them have no choice if they want to keep their farms running." Meanwhile, the Gush Qatif settlements continue to draw water from wells at rates far outstripping Palestinian use.

The Palestinian authority keeps a low profile in Al Mawasi. Cars sport Palestinian license plates, but residents are still waiting for Palestinian ID cards to replace their old Israeli ones. Uniformed Palestinian policemen and official representatives of the Palestine National Authority wishing to enter Al Mawasi must coordinate their entrance with the Israelis; such visits are rare. The Cairo agreement allows the Palestinians to exercise civil authority over 5 kilometres of beach next to Al Mawasi not officially in the "yellow area." This involves supervision of the Khan Yunis and Rafah fishermen's wharves, recreational activities along the beach, and other civilian affairs, such as taxes and permits, related to the beach.

While other Gazans are allowed access to Al Mawasi, they must pass unarmed through an Israeli checkpoint on the western edge of Khan Yunis or Rafah. Once in Al Mawasi, Palestinians may only drive along the access roads to the beach and the coastal road, just recently reopened to Palestinian cars; those who inadvertently stray onto the settler road a kilometre in from the sea must pay a fine and are barred from Al Mawasi for 40 days.

Few Palestinian political leaders make public statements any more about the settlements in the Gaza Strip, perhaps hesitant to draw attention to the possibility that the deferral of the issue of settlements to the final status talks has in fact solidified their presence into permanence At least this much is sure: until the final status talks have produced an agreement on the settlements, such oddities as settler hotels and restaurants along Al Mawasi's beach will continue operation.

Although not optimistic about the future, the Al Mawasi farmers show a strong resolve to remain steadfast on their land. Mustafa, a fruit farmer with many dunums of guava trees, has a small orange grove to the east of the settler road — all the adjoining land has been taken over by the settlements. "The settlers tell me to name my price and they'll buy the land from me," he says. "When they saw I wouldn't sell, they made problems for me when I went to tend my trees. I go over there now only when I have to, because when I go, there are fights." Whether Mustafa's individual resolve will be matched with a collective Palestinian resolve against the settlements which still occupy nearly 40 per cent of the Strip and for the rights of Al Mawasi's residents, remains to be seen.

Middle East International

Victor Bisharat: 'Love is giving'

IN 1977 His Majesty King Hussein graced Victor Bisharat with the Jordanian Medal of Honour for having donated his design for Jordan's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which still stands outlined on a hillside in Amman surrounded by trees and visited by many local and foreign dignitaries who water the symbolic olive tree in its grounds after following its tour of those who die for their country.

At the time of the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, on one of his many visits home to family and friends, Victor delivered the following poem to the people of Jordan:

"Excite all what you see of body and soul,
The secret of eternal life is giving,
If the body should perish one day,
The soul would then vex death,
In that the soul still lives,
In the hearts of our friends,
And the fire that burns in their hearts,
Lights up the crimson skies,
Always reminding those who live,
That love is giving.

Victor Hanna Bisharat who shaped the skyline of Stamford, Connecticut and helped in the urban renewal of that city, died in his sleep at his home in Sacramento, California, on January 10.

Victor was born Salt, in June of 1920, to Sheikh Hanna Bisharat, one of the first of the Bisharat family to leave Amman for the West Bank, in an entrepreneurial spirit. The Bisharat's themselves were and remain a great landowning family in the most complete traditional sense of the word, with the love of the land and the people on it that marked and should mark the strength of Arab landowing society and urban renewal.

In his way, Victor carried the great Bisharat spirit to the United States, where he emigrated in 1947 having been one of that great generation that graduated from the American University of Beirut in its heyday. Once rooming with the late Wasfi El Tel, Victor graduated with a degree in architecture in 1940. He continued graduate studies at the University of California under the tutelage of architect Eric Mendelsohn.

His U.S. career began as a team member on the layout of the site plan for Disneyland in California; in the 50s he became the chief architect for the Ralph Parsons Company, where he distinguished himself in designing a house for industrialist, Daniel K. Ludwig, the 300 foot yacht for Mr. Parsons himself and several commercial buildings for the firm including the Beirut headquarters of Intra Bank.

Victor Bisharat opened his own firm in 1960, concentrating on commercial work. By 1964 he he competed for and won the design for the Jordan Pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair in New York, receiving a commendation from the fairs' organisers as the most imaginative design at the fair. Throughout the 60s and 70s he concentrated his efforts on developing the masterplan of the city of Stamford Connecticut, in conjunction with the F. D. Rich Co. He also designed other buildings in Bridgeport and New York. In the early 1980s he worked on numerous other projects in both the U.S. and the United Arab Emirates where he designed several palaces for the ruling family, including that of Sheikh Surroor Bin Nahayan of Abu Dhabi.

Victor Bisharat's architectural approach was highly individualistic and sculptural, believing in individual solutions in harmony with total concepts. He once said that he thought of architecture as "a vehicle of expression to manifest the splendour of the human spirit and attest to the nobility of man's purpose." He believed that form did not follow function, but "transcends it." For him, design was to satisfy functional requirements and "create an organic totality that fulfills it. One cannot create this totality by assembling parts, and the parts of a totality cannot exist without reflecting the quality of the whole..."

In that perfectionist spirit, Victor helped make little changes in the skyline and the totality of the whole in the U.S., San Juan, Puerto Rico, Beirut, Amman and the UAE. If "love is giving," there should surely be a little bit of sky that belongs to him in heaven.

Mamdouh Bisharat

Iraq awaits oil sale talks

(Continued from page 1)

300 from 1,700 dinars.

Hardest hit were small re-ilers, cart owners and kerb ealers.

"I am going bust. It is over. (rice) lost about 350 dinars three hours," said one oung man pushing his empty art in Jamila which bustled ith shoppers on Saturday.

It was a different story for the women shoppers.

"I wish to God it is serious this time. What has our oil done? Why do not they let it go out and send us food — those wretched and merciless Americans," said one woman.

Egypt brotherhood leader dies

(Continued from page 12)

Mr. Mashour walked in ont of the coffin with three ther Brotherhood members nd shook hands with numer-us followers.

No government repre-entative attended the cere-ony. But the Liberal and abour parties, both allied to he Brotherhood, and the iberal Wafd party sent de-egations.

"We certainly would have had a larger turnout if not for (government) repression which intimidated people," one of the organisers told AFP.

Abu Al Nasr, who became the Brotherhood's "supreme guide" in 1986, was the group's fourth leader since its founding in 1928, following the founder Hassan Al Banna, killed in 1949, Hassan Al Hodeibi and Omar Tilmisani.

Pope, Chirac discussions

(Continued from page 12)

"The Pope's position is extremely clear: He has condemned nuclear testing and asked all countries to sign the universal nuclear test ban treaty," Green Party leader Carlo Ripa di Meana told Reuters. "Chirac is in flagrant contradiction of this."

The Vatican spokesman said last week's speech was not aimed specifically at France but referred to nuclear tests in general.

Paris has carried out five tests and plans at least one more before concluding the programme by the end of February. It has said it will then sign a treaty banning nuclear tests for good.

Mr. Chirac told the Pope that France favoured "the causes of disarmament and development."

In his speech to Mr. Chirac, the Pope said political acts should be linked to a "constant moral reflection."

After their meeting, Mr. Chirac said he vowed that France would be faithful to its Catholic heritage and spiritaul vocation.

"France, on which so many men and women are counting on in the world, wants to be faithful to its heritage, its spiritual and human calling."

"France is in Bosnia. It is in Cambodia. It is in the Middle East and on the shores of the Mediterranean cherished by the people of the Bible," he said.

Mr. Chirac added that France is also "determined to help Africa to take on peace" and that in Europe, his nation "acts relentlessly for the union of our old continent reconciled at last."

The Pope urged Mr. Chirac to heal "the harmful fractures in the social fabric" and uphold the family and Catholic education in France.

Gamaa threatens U.S. over Abdul Rahman

(Continued from page 12)

The United States had to realise though "it is incapable of confronting millions of Muslims across the world. It is time it understands that even if Arab and Muslim governments are falling at their feet, that does not mean they can stifle the Muslim people," the statement added.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno hailed the sentences saying: "Justice has been done. These are tough sentences for heinous crimes. We will continue to fight terrorism and seek justice with every tool at our disposal."

Sheikh Abdul Rahman and his co-defendants were not charged with the World Trade Cente bombing which left six dead and 1,000 wounded, but officials suspected they had links to it.

Two Iranian newspapers also blasted the United States on Saturday for jailing Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

Jomhuri Islami said the sheikh's "path will continue despite the artificial verdict" issued against him.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman is a "victim of Zionist hatred and rancour against Muslims," charged the daily, which is close to Islamic hardliners. The sentence "was prepared in advance."

Salam, which represents Islamic left-wingers, said the verdict "was to please the Zionist regime and Mubarak."

In an editorial headlined "The American Justice," the paper compared accusations levelled against the sheikh — that he sought to topple the U.S. government — to a covert action plan adopted by Washington against Iran.

"Why are alleged efforts to topple the U.S. government a crime, but not those to overthrow Iran?" Salam asked.

The plan, aimed at moderating Iran's Islamic regime, was a modified version of a proposal by U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich to overthrow the Iranian government.

Palestinians vote

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian legislature and ed for president — into eparate boxes. He was cer-ain to beat his little-known oman challenger Samiha Khalil to become the Palesti-nians' first popularly elected eader.

One Jerusalem voter, Suieh Julian, 50 said: "I hope here will be changes but if he elections do not take place in the right conditions, hey will have no sense."

Six Palestinians working or non-governmental orga-nisations were also prevented rom entering the main East Jerusalem post office despite having valid papers.

"This is not right," complained French Deputy Daniel Garrigue, one of the foreign observers led by a team from the European Union. "The Israelis are preventing voters from coming to the polling stations."

"There is a difference between ensuring security and putting pressure" on people, added Belgian Deputy Raymonde Dury.

However, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said he was satisfied with the running of the poll.

In Hebron, a Palestinian stabbed and slightly wounded an Israeli settler girl.

Jewish settlers, who live in the heart of Hebron, reacted by beating six Palestinians and smashing the windows of an Arab car, Palestinian sources said.

Soldiers detained the attacker, who Israeli security sources said belonged to the militant group Hamas which is boycotting the elections.

The town, a flashpoint between Arab and Jew, had been tense all day.

Throughout the violence, four Japanese Buddhist priests in traditional robes sat passively on the grass near the Ibrahimi mosque beating drums and chanting. They raised a banner reading "Pilgrims for peace."

Angry settlers taunted reinforced contingents of Israeli soldiers and police who spent much of the day scrambling to separate groups of Jews chasing Arabs.

Hundreds of settlers strolled through the streets on the Jewish sabbath, walking to and from the Ibrahimi Mosque.

Voting proceeded without interruption during the clashes. The Palestinian polling station was situated just off a road leading to a Jewish enclave in the town. Opposite the station was an Islamic court building covered in Hebrew graffiti.

"Death to the Arabs," one of the slogans read.

While election officials reported irregularities in the elections, they would not affect the outcome of the historic polls.

Officials notably complained that overflowing ballot boxes in the Gaza Strip were emptied into plastic bags during the vote without proper supervision.

"The number of ballot boxes in Gaza was insufficient," said Tawfiq Abu Ghazala, vice-president of the election commission, explaining that the boxes had to be emptied so other electors could vote.

An Irish observer said the ballot boxes filled up because organisers "didn't realise how big the ballot paper was... The boxes are very big but unfortunately there was not enough room."

But he added: "I think the elections are fair."

There were also reports of candidates and even policemen campaigning in and around polling stations in violation of election rules.

"Some people tried to influence voters even inside the polling stations, while policemen just looked on," complained Jamal Zakkut, an observer in Gaza City for the small Fida party led by Yasser Abed Rabbo.

"Worse, in other stations policemen even pressured voters," he added.

In Ramallah, policemen deployed in one polling station in a primary school spent their time distributing campaign leaflets for one of the candidates.

And in another station, illiterate voters were scouted out by campaign workers offering to vote in their place.

But Mr. Zakkut said the irregularities "would not have a significant influence on voters' choices."

Mustapha Barghouthi, a candidate for the Palestinian People's Party in Ramallah, also said the vote "generally took place in a democratic manner."

Hamas dismissed the elections, saying its ideas would survive even if many Islamists took part in the voting.

On the defensive against reports of the high turnout in the poll, spokesman Mahmoud Al Zahar said Hamas would not be pushed to the margins of Palestinian politics.

Candidates in the elections say they believed Hamas blundered when it decided not to put up candidates and would live to regret the decision.

Many Islamists did take part in the voting, saying they wanted to express their opposition to the self-rule agreements which the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has signed with Israel.

But Dr. Zahar told Reuters Hamas would have lost credibility by taking part, because of its opposition in principle to the self-rule deals which made elections possible.

"Hamas is not being marginalised by the elections. Even if Hamas was completely uprooted, its programme would survive through all the Islamic organisations in the Arab and Islamic world," he said.

He denied that Hamas had approved or given instructions to any of the candidates in the elections. He specifically denied Hamas had anything to do with a list of "approved" Islamist candidates circulated in Gaza on Friday.

"This is not true. The aim of these reports is to prove that what Hamas says in public what it does not do in secret. It's designed to tarnish Hamas's reputation," he added.

The list included seven Hamas militants running for seats in the self-rule council as "Islamic independents" and two official candidates from Mr. Arafat's Fateh movement, Riyad Zaanun and Fakhri Shekura.

About 40 people, including women wearing black veils over their faces, were seen carrying the lists into one Gaza City polling station.

Israeli leaders hailed the smooth running of the elections and dismissed criticism of voting in annexed East Jerusalem.

"I am satisfied," Prime Minister Peres said, according to a spokesman from his office.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal pointed to "excellent cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli police" during the vote. "I am happy with the smooth running of the elections," he said.

He rejected criticism from international observers that the heavy presence of Israeli police and border guards around polling stations in East Jerusalem had intimidated Palestinian voters.

"These police were essential to ensure the security of voters. They didn't go inside the post offices which were transformed into polling stations," the minister said.

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid wished Mr. Arafat "good luck" in a telegram extending his wishes to "all Palestinian supporters of peace."

"It will be possible to cut a year off the negotiations on the final status of the territories," he told state radio. Talks on the final status of the territories are due to start in May and last three years.

In other election-related developments:

— The head of the Palestinian preventive security service, Colonel Jibril Rajub, was intercepted by Israeli police in East Jerusalem and ordered back to Palestinian territory.

Col. Rajub was detained at an Israeli checkpoint near the Old City's Damascus Gate as he tried to visit one of five post offices set aside in East Jerusalem for the elections.

"Colonel Rajub planned to enter one of the polling stations, which is prohibited," said spokesman Shmuel Ben Ruby.

He said Col. Rajub was taken to the office of Jerusalem police chief Arie Amit, who ordered him to return to the autonomous Palestinian territories, he said.

— Mr. Arafat's sole challenger for president of the self-rule government, Samiha Khalil, went to the polls but forgot to mark her choice on the ballot.

"What do you expect, it's the first time in my life that I vote," the 72-yer-old grandmother and community activist told reporters.

Officials at the voting bureau in Al Bireh, outside Ramallah, allowed Ms. Khalil to reopen the envelope and mark the box for either herself or Mr. Arafat after she realised that she had forgotten to put her choice.

Ms. Khalil said she did not receive fair coverage from official Palestinian television and radio during the campaign.

"The Palestinian media have ignored me, but I have the support of my people," she said.

— Iran said the elections were a ploy to regain Mr. Arafat a legitimacy he lost to his people when he entered peace negotiations with Israel.

Tehran Radio said the polls would "be under Israeli dominance under the present conditions."

"Arafat hopes to recover the legitimacy he lost among Palestinians after he capitulated to the Zionist regime," the radio said in Iran's first official reaction to the vote.

It warned, however, that the "non-participation of the opposition will stop efforts by the leader of the Palestinian (National) Authority to pose himself as a representative of the Palestinians."

— It ended with a friendly handshake but there was a touch of frost in Jimmy Carter's brief encounter with an Israeli policeman outside a Palestinian polling station in East Jerusalem.

"Are the police photographing the voters," the former U.S. president, wearing the blue vest of an international observer of elections, asked a policeman on duty outside an Israeli post office where Palestinians cast their ballots.

"Yes," the policeman replied.

"Why?" Mr. Carter injected.

"Yes, to prevent a problem. But not the voters inside — outside," the policeman said.

"But you're taking a photograph of everyone that votes," Mr. Carter insisted.

"No. Really no. Only if we have problems, we photograph. No problems — no photo," the officer said.

"If a Palestinian comes here to vote, are you taking his photograph," Mr. Carter asked.

The policeman was adamant: "No, only if we have a problem we are taking it. Without a problem — no picture."

"OK," Mr. Carter said. "We don't want you to photograph them because that intimidates people."

"Don't worry," was the reply.

"But I'm worried," Mr. Carter said with a smile. Then they shook hands.

— Palestinian refugees in Lebanon staged partially-successful strikes to protest against the elections.

Most of the estimated 400,000 Palestinian refugees living in a dozen squalid camps in Lebanon oppose the PLO-Israeli peace arrangements because they offer them little chance of ever returning to their homeland.

Schools and about half the shops and businesses closed in 'Ain Al Hilweh, the biggest camp housing 75,000 refugees near the southern port city of Sidon, but there was none of the tyre-burning and banners normally seen in protest strikes.

Witnesses said life appeared normal in some of the other camps, but schools and nearly half the shops closed at Rashidiyeh camp near the southern port of Tyre and in Jalil camp at Baalbek, in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

$35m World Bank loan in the pipeline for Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the World Bank open negotiations Monday on a loan of about $35 million to help promote the Kingdom's industrial exports, Planning Minister Rima Khalaf said Saturday.

The negotiations are expected to be completed this week and formal approval from the World Bank board for the credit is expected shortly thereafter.

The formal agreement on the credit could be signed before mid-February, according to official sources.

Dr. Khalaf declined to discuss details of the expected loan but said the "intention is to make the money available to (Jordan's) industrial exporters" as part of the government's efforts to promote exports.

In effect, funds will be made available mostly to exporters as what is known as package credit — financing up to a good percentage of the total value of export orders supported by bank documents guaranteeing payment upon execution.

The loan to exporters will carry nominal interest rates, significantly lower than local commercial interest rates.

Such arrangements help exporters who may not have enough funds available to finance the purchase of raw material and processing the goods ordered for export.

It will be the first World Bank loan to Jordan this year. The bank lent Jordan $125 million in 1995 under cofinancing arrangements with other donors, mainly the government of Japan.

Dr. Khalaf told the Jordan Times that the government and the World Bank had not discussed definite projects for 1996 but that the Kingdom expected World Bank loans worth about $140 million during the year.

World Bank officials have said that the bank expected to continue to extend financial assistance to Jordan to help it bring about key reforms that would gradually raise the Kingdom's performance in the international market.

World Bank loans are mostly available at commercial bank rates, which are around seven per cent on the American dollar in the international market.

During a visit to Jordan in October to attend the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, World Bank Vice-President Ciao Koch-Wiser said the bank was helping Jordan develop its various sectors, including reforms in key segments of the economy.

He said the World Bank was very comfortable working with Jordan, which has a good track record of adopting and implementing reforms that have put its economy on a well-prepared road to recovery since the late 80s.

A World Bank team headed by project officer Toufan Kolan has already arrived in Amman to start this week's negotiations, which will involve the ministries of planning, finance and trade and industry.

Official sources said meanwhile Jordan had already appropriated an $80 million World Bank loan cofinanced by the government of Japan with a similar amount. The amount was used to improve the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves.

The World Bank loan was signed on the fringes of the Amman economic summit in October and the Japanese loan was signed in December

Lawzi expects rise in produce exports in '96

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's production of fruits and vegetables in the past year reached about two million tonnes while exports recorded no significant increase compared with 1994 performance, director of the Agriculture Marketing Organisation (AMO) Salim Al Lawzi said Saturday.

Dr. Lawzi also said Jordan's exports of fruits and vegetables is expected to rise this year following agreements the Kingdom has reached with neighbouring countries and changes in the political climate in the Arab World, specially with Gulf countries.

"With the normalisation of relations with Gulf countries, specially Saudi Arabia, and the economic accord we signed with the Palestinian self-rule authorities and Israel, we expect our export to register a new record," Mr. Lawzi said.

He added that "with the scheduled visit by His Majesty King Hussein to Riyadh in the Holy Month of Ramadan, we expect that our trade relations with the elder sister will improve a lot."

Amman's relations with Riyadh strained following Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and Jordan's perceived tilt towards Baghdad. Saudi Arabia, the major importer of Jordanian fruits and vegetables before 1990, halted its imports of Jordanian vegetables, but fruits exports didn't stop. In 1990 Saudi Arabia imported about 50 per cent of Jordan exports of fruits and vegetables, which reached at that time 570,000 tonnes.

In 1995, Jordan exported 317,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables, which constitute 15.8 per cent of the total production. Most of this quantity went to the United Arab Emirates which received 130,000 tonnes, about 41 per cent, followed by Bahrain with 70,000 tonnes, 22 per cent, Lebanon with 54,000 tonnes, 17 per cent, Qatar 36,000 tonnes, 11.3 per cent, Saudi Arabia 21.000 tonnes, 6.6 per cent and other European and Asian countries with 6,000 tonnes, 1.8 per cent. The Kingdom's export of fruits reached 260,000 tonnes about 82 per cent while vegetables reached 57,000 tonnes, 17.9 per cent the major export items were tomato, potato, cucumber... etc.

The local market consumed the lion's share of the Kingdom's production with 1,683,000 tonnes, 84.1 per cent. The revenue of what the Kingdom has exported reached JD 61 million ($85.9 million).

Last year, Jordan signed an economic accord with Israel which paved the way for goods movement between Amman and Tel Aviv and included among other things Jordan export of 50,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables. Another agreement was signed with the Palestinian self-rule authority for economic cooperation with Jordan.

"With these accords, our export capacity will reach a new record," he said adding that the AMO has formulated a new plan to improve the "marketing performance" and to organise the exporting condition to these markets.

G-7 talks aim at generating growth, creating jobs

PARIS (R) — Economic policy-makers from the world's richest nations are arriving in Paris Saturday for talks aimed at reviving flagging economic growth and tackling stubbornly-high unemployment rates.

The slowdown in economies, particularly in Europe, was to be the main focus as finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) tried to stop the 1990s being written-off as a decade of debt, deflation and derisory economic expansion.

"Growth will dominate the agenda. Currencies will be discussed as they always are but economic growth rates will be the main focus," a British monetary official said.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said late Friday that the slowdown in Europe was "not helpful."

Though the United States also faces a cooling in its economy, and Japan has been slow to recover, Europe, particularly France and Germany, faces stagnation.

U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said Friday the meeting would touch on high jobless rates in Europe. "Unemployment is far too high in Europe by anybodys measure."

But the G-7 — the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Canada and Britain — was not expected to find any miracle cure to revive world growth and get people back to work.

While G-7nations have been quick to trim interest rates, they appear to have little choice but to keep cutting them until more lively economic activity returns.

Britain has cut interest rates twice in five weeks and France and Germany eased monetary conditions last week.

And Germany, powerhouse of the European economy, was expected to be encouraged to lower interest rates further.

G-7 leaders are worried Europe could slide back into recession, pushing more people out or work, feeding social unrest and damaging plans for closer economic union.

Mr. Rubin said Friday Europe faced a conflict between meeting the tight budget criteria required ahead of European monetary union and the slowdown in economic growth coupled with rising unemployment.

The spotlight was also likely to fall on the dollar, which rallied sharply ahead of the meeting on expectations the G-7 would warmly appland its rally over the past nine months.

The dollar surged to 1.4840 marks late Friday from 1.4690 marks late in the European day on Thursday.

It has risen just over six per cent against the mark since the last G-7 meeting in October, helping to rebalance the world economy by making European exports cheaper on world markets.

But concrete initiatives in Paris to boost the dollar further were unlikely. The G-7 delegates were expected to give just verbal, though possibly strongly-worded, support for the dollar in order to help the European economies.

Mr. Rubin said Friday he was satisfied with the dollars exchange rates.

U.S. women closing salary gap with men

WASHINGTON (AFP) — American women are closing the salary gap with men in similar jobs, according to a study published in this week's Working Woman Magazine showing that women's wages last year were five to 15 per cent lower than the men's.

Based on a survey of 38 business sectors and 250 professions, the study was more optimistic than the Labour Department's statistics, which put women's average salaries last year at 24 per cent lower than those of men.

Diane Harris, who conducts the magazine's annual survey of women's salaries, stressed that the government's data is based on national averages, while her study focused on wages in the same job or profession.

She described her findings as "dramatically good news," adding that the salary gap between the sexes has been narrowing steadily for the past 20 years.

The study also found that women with higher education and professional training spend less time away from work on maternal or parental leave.

The highest paid woman in the United States in 1995 was Linda Wachner, whose salary as president of the clothing manufacturer Warnaco and Authentic Fitness was $3.5 million.

EU sets its sights on Asia in 1996

VENICE, Italy (AFP) — The European Union (EU) aims to give a powerful boost in 1996 to its relations with Asia, using four major aid programmes aimed at ASEAN countries and India.

The new emphasis on Asia was highlighted Friday in Venice at a forum organised by the EU on the theme "Europe-Asia towards a better mutual understanding" which was attended by 200 people, including many businessmen and researchers.

Trade between EU countries and Asia increased more rapidly in 1994 than the EU's trade with the United States. Exchanges with Asia rose by 12.9 per cent to 250 billion ECUs ($320 billion) while those with the United States increased by 11.5 per cent to 188 billion ECUs ($240 billion).

The EU expects its trade with Asia to increase twice as fast as that with the United States next century, according to forecasts handed to the press on the sidelines of the forum.

Western Europe absorbed 31.7 per cent of the exports from Asia in 1994 — the equivalent of its own exports to Asian countries.

The EU began in 1994 to realise the growing importance of Asia and proposes new economic and political initiatives, including for security problems, said Emiliano Fossati the EU's director for relations with south and southeast Asia.

He said Asia believed it was important to reestablish ties with the EU but had the impression that Europe was not interested.

Mr. Fossati said the Bangkok summit between Europe and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) due to take place on March 1 and 2 would be the opportunity to send a political signal showing how much Asia is now of strategic interest to Europe.

The first six months of 1996 would be the Asian semester, Manuel Marin, European Commissioner for North-South relations said Thursday at the opening of the Venice forum.

He said the EU would shortly sign cooperation agreements with Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka plus a strategic agreement on India and another agreement on ties with ASEAN states.

Percy Westerlund, EU director for relations with the Far East, said the EU was redirecting its relations with China and Japan marked in the past by bitter trade disputes with the Japanese.

He said the EU would announce a series of new cooperation programmes with these countries later this year.

Aid programmes for Asia are estimated at 420 million ECUs ($537 million) a year.

Four major projects are about to be launched, three for ASEAN countries and the other for India.

The first is called junior EU-ASEAN managers programme and will cost 22.5 million ECUs ($29 million). Over three years, it will provide training courses of about nine months for some 700 Asians in European firms and for 300 Europeans who will go to Asia.

A similar formula with Japan has already been tried with success.

Another programme called Asia Invest costing 30 million ECUs ($38 million) aims to facilitate relations between small and medium-sized firms in Europe and Asia, enabling them for example to organise group meetings or set up information bureaux about EU projects in Asian cities and in EU countries.

The programme Asia Urbs also worth 30 million ECUs which is due to be launched before the summer, calls for a transfer of know-how between towns and urban councils in Europe and Asia.

In the case of India, the Economic Cross Cultural Programme (30 million ECUs) is to support investments by small firms, cinema and television coproductions, exchanges of journalists and the creation in India and Europe of centres for mutual research.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"I'm not in the mood for soup, but I need something to dump on your head if you keep flirting with the waitress."

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

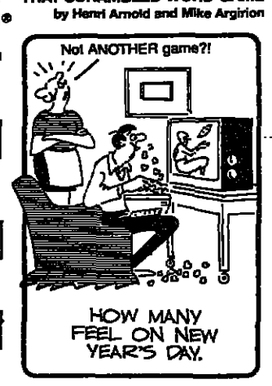
RUYLB

WEPOR

TEVLE

BOYDEM

©1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here : "○○○○○○" ○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CEASE OBESE HERALD MARKUP
Answer: What a Congressman's wife can often be — SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1996

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Home life can be rather sad during the daytime today, but later tonight you can be off with the one you love and have a romantic time.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find that communications do not go well in the morning today, but later tonight you can get your ideas across with the aid of a clever fellow associate.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Financial affairs are confusing in the morning today, but later tonight get better ideas as the day progresses for you to be successful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to gain your ideas early today and then your creativity can bring greater abundance. Have a good time with your mate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Forget worries and improve home conditions and feel happier. Entertain close friends in your home later this evening and have a good time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A fellow associate is disappointing in the morning today, but later tonight you can keep appointments and have a delightful time with your close friends.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find it difficult to handle a task in the morning today, but later in the day an official is cheerful and helpful. Put more energy into career activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Clean up odds and ends of career activities and then you can get off to a new and interesting activities. Be careful while driving on the highway.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Showing more affection for your mate is important today and you will gain greater accord under your roof if you do so.

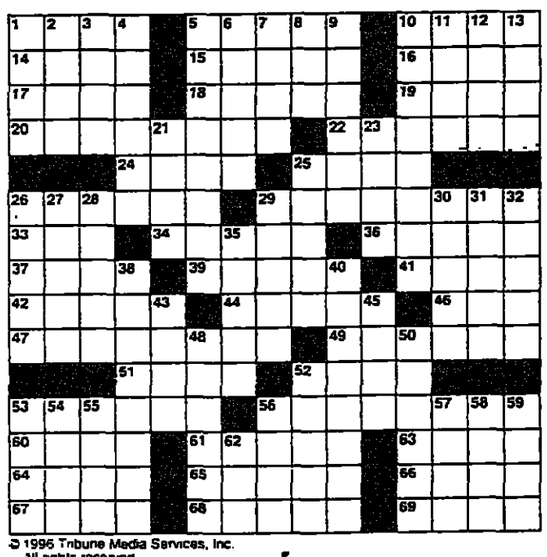
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A fellow associate could be irritating in the morning today, but this soon blows over. Be happy with your mate later this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get your career activities completed conscientiously during the morning today, and then everything runs smoothly at home with your loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The daytime is not good for having fun but later tonight you can plan something charming. Get your creative ideas working nicely.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler



ACROSS
1 Member of nobility
5 Instructors
10 Quarrel
14 Thomas — Edison
15 Musical show
16 Sage
17 Legal claim
18 Public
19 Rectangular column
20 Delphinium
22 Brazilian seaport
24 Noose
25 Swear
26 Pilots
29 Assumed
33 Spread out for drying
34 Fortunetelling card
36 Catch
37 Copied
39 Book of public records
41 Take forcibly
42 Romulus and —
44 Made public
46 "This — recording"
47 School profession
49 Ship's officer
51 Artist Rockwell
52 Printing term
53 Noisy confusion
56 Naive
60 "The — love ..."
61 Coral island
63 Brad
64 Freberg or Getz
65 Rib
66 — Bombeck
67 For a — (cheaply)
68 Finished
69 Pine board

DOWN
1 Cloy
2 Director Kazan
3 Always
4 Irritate
5 Offer of marriage
6 Accelerate the speed of an engine
7 Above
8 Mink
9 Erects
10 Farewell appearance
11 Beer measure
12 Regarding
13 Four o'clock socials
21 Separate from others
23 Vipers
25 Prettier
26 Move involuntarily
27 Great plains dwelling
28 Swelling
29 Ferber novel
30 Outer garments of Hindu women
31 Obliterate
32 Exclude
35 Cheerful
38 "The Ugly —"
40 Drove back
43 Mets' stadium
45 Uninteresting
48 Confined one
50 Held back
52 Edible red alga
53 Honcho
54 Within: pref.
55 A Martin
56 Prod
57 Naked
58 Certain bean
59 Israeli airline
62 Knockout count

© 1996 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

Yesterday's puzzle solved

A	E	S	O	P		A	S	P			Z	A	N	E
C	A	P	R	A		R	E	A	R		E	L	I	A
A	R	O	A	R		E	R	L	E		R	E	N	T
D	S	O		T	H	E	B	I	G	F	O	X	E	S
		N	E	W	E	L			A	R	I			
T	A	R	T	A	N		S	I	L	E	N	C	E	R
U	N	I	T	Y		P	E	T	I	T		L	E	E
L	I	V	E		B	E	A	T	A		S	E	R	E
I	T	E		E	R	A	T	O		B	R	A	I	D
P	A	R	A	S	O	L	S		P	L	A	N	E	S
			R	A	N			S	T	A	S	H		
T	H	E	M	U	Z	A	K	M	A	N		A	R	M
H	E	R	A		E	L	L	A		K	O	R	E	A
A	R	I	D		D	E	E	R		E	R	R	E	D
R	O	N	A			S	E	T		D	O	Y	L	E

Peanuts

Andy Cap

Mutt'n'Jeff

Al Dustour publisher raises capital to fund expansion

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press and Publications Company Limited, which publishes the Al Dustour Arabic-language daily, is raising its capital by JD 500,000 to JD 2 million to finance expansion projects, the company announced Saturday.

The expansion projects reflect the constant efforts by Jordanian newspaper industry to acquire advanced equipment and keep abreast with the progress in printing technology.

The Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited, which publishes the Kingdom's mass-circulation daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, went through an expansion project in 1994.

After raising capital to JD 2 million and collecting JD 5 million in premium for the fresh issue, the company acquired a sophisticated printing press and built new buildings. The entire process of publishing a newspaper there is fully computerised.

In an advertisement in Al Dustour Saturday, the Jordan Press and Publications Company Limited invited its shareholders to subscribe to 250,000 of the new shares and placed the remainder of the new stock for public subscription at JD 6 each — JD 1 book value with a premium of JD 5.

The company secured approval from the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the marketing price of shares with the JD 5 premium last week.

Under the companies law, public shareholding companies are required to obtain approval from the ministry for fresh issues as well as the sale price. Saturday's advertisement of the fresh issue is also a legal requirement.

The Jordan Press and Publications Company Limited intends to use the proceeds of the fresh issue to finance expansion projects including the purchase of advanced machinery and equipment for its printing press and studios, an electronic archives and a new warehouse.

The new machinery and equipment would include a post press system, delivery belts, inserters, stackers, strappers and rappers etc.

The electronic archives, which will complement the present system of keeping the physical copies of daily issues as well as offer an advanced network of information retrieval, is estimated to cost JD 120,000.

The Jordan Press and Publications Company Limited, like the Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited, also runs a commercial printing press and offers its facilities to print the Kingdom's tabloids and political parties' newspapers.

The government-guided Social Security Corporation (SSC) owns 37 per cent of the equity of the Jordan Press and Publications Company Limited and the rest of the capital is dispersed among private companies and individuals.

The company was established as a private partnership in 1967. In 1986, the company, like all other Jordanian newspaper publishing firms, was converted into a public shareholding company.

The government, acting through its investment agencies including the SSC, acquired full equity in all newspaper establishments in 1988/89 but returned part of the capital to private ownership in 1990.

Al Dustour ranks as the second largest-circulation Arabic-language daily in Jordan after Al Ra'i. The Kingdom's third Arabic-language daily is Al Aswaq, which bought the assets of Sawt Al Shaab, an almost fully government-owned daily which folded last year after incurring heavy losses.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 20/01/1996

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK Plc	1180	277190	231.000	235.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1107	4836	4.350	4.370
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	1350	1593	1.190	1.210
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	6000	15862	2.620	2.650
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK/NEW	2574	6459	2.390	2.510
JORDAN GULF BANK	108414	112790	1.040	1.080
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	250	950	3.850	3.800
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1400	5110	3.610	3.650
BUSINESS BANK	250	796	3.180	3.180
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1500	5295	3.520	3.530
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGS&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1000	3100	3.100	3.100
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	29850	25708	.860	.860
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	23100	32424	1.370	1.420
BANKS SECTOR	177995	492166	INDEX NUMBER: 186.36 CHANGE	: +1.46%
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	7064	19073	2.700	2.700
INSURANCE SECTOR	7064	19073	INDEX NUMBER: 129.26 CHANGE	: 0.00%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	22100	37726	1.670	1.720
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	15120	19051	1.260	1.260
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	268	1512	5.600	5.650
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	600	1548	2.570	2.580
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	6800	11569	1.660	1.690
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1000	980	.970	.980
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	2700	5823	2.132	2.180
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	2250	7650	3.420	3.400
ZARKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	2900	3509	1.210	1.210
UNITED CO. FOR ORGANIZING LAND TRANS.	3250	7303	2.210	2.250
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	1000	988	.990	.990
SERVICES SECTOR	57988	97677	INDEX NUMBER: 127.21 CHANGE	: +0.83%
ATTAHREER CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	500	600	1.200	1.200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	11707	42348	3.600	3.620
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1200	3898	3.240	3.250
THE ARAB POTASH	178	968	5.450	5.450
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	264	2601	9.820	9.860
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	200	728	3.650	3.640
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	7718	35882	4.520	4.700
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	725	4431	6.100	6.130
JORDAN DAIRY	400	1020	2.500	2.550
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	450	1046	2.330	2.300
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	239	1707	7.150	7.150
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	20500	11698	.550	.580
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	4250	5993	1.390	1.410
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	450	446	.980	.990
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	600	871	1.420	1.460
JORDAN WOOLWOOL INDUSTRIES	3000	3150	1.050	1.050
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	550	941	1.690	1.710
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	6300	20040	3.180	3.190
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1900	3575	1.860	1.890
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3400	4690	1.370	1.380
EL-ZAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	7300	16427	2.240	2.250
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	19063	25924	1.360	1.360
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGATIABLE OIL INDUSTRI	1650	2574	1.540	1.560
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	92844	191554	INDEX NUMBER: 122.21 CHANGE	: +1.05%
GRAND TOTAL	335591	800470	INDEX NUMBER: 164.37 CHANGE	: +1.23%

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 182501
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 104218

Egypt embracing build-operate-transfer concept

CAIRO (R) — The Cairo government, encouraged by U.S. and Egyptian businessmen, has taken the first steps towards letting the private sector take on infrastructure projects such as power stations and toll roads.

Taher Helmi, spokesman for a council of businessmen from the two countries, has said the government was about to choose consultants to set the rules for Egypt's first projects under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) system.

Under the system, a company undertakes to build a project, run it for a limited period and collect revenue from it before handing it over to the government.

The first three projects on the drawing board in Egypt are all in the power sector — two 325 MW gas-fired power plants and a pumped storage system at Mount Ataqa near Suez — and they will probably be worth about $1.5 billion in total, Mr. Helmi said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. Vice President Al Gore have discussed when they met the businessmen in their role as joint chairman of the council, known as the Presidents' Council, he added.

The council is one of the main institutions of the fledgling "Partnership for Growth" which the United States is promoting as a complement to traditional aid to Egypt.

The council has a mandate to come up with opportunities for Egyptian-American joint ventures in the private sector and the BOT projects are the first fruits of their labour.

Mr. Helmi, a partner in a Cairo law firm, told Reuters that in a second phase the government would let private-sector companies build power plants generating 2,500 MW and costing about $2 billion. The timescale for completion of the first two phase in seven to eight years.

"Power companies are all interested. The reaction we have had to this is extremely favourable and we expect a large number of multinationals to explore these opportunities," he added.

"We also have the green light to start looking at the idea of toll roads under a BOT system," he said.

The 15 U.S. businessmen on the council include the chief executive of Black and Veatch, a vice president of General Electric Company and representatives of the big oil companies Amoco Corporation and Mobil Oil Corporation.

The council has compiled a report detailing the obstacles to investment in Egypt and recommending other steps along the path of economic liberalisation.

A U.S. Embassy official told Reuters it would include points like streamlining approvals, judicial reform and transparency in the Egyptian government's tendering procedures.

Businessmen on both sides were seeking trade liberalisation, with the Egyptians especially interested in opening up the U.S. market to Egypt's exports of textiles and food, he added.

Mr. Helmi, who is a member of the council, played down the gravity of bureaucratic disincentives to investing in Egypt.

"The U.S. side brought many obstacles to our attention but the government has taken care of 50 per cent in the past year. The perceptions were not correct. We have been trying to correct those perceptions and put out the right information," he said.

The council, Mr. Helmi added, is pressing an amendment to the banking law to allow foreign banks to hold a majority stake in joint-venture banks in Egypt. "You'll see developments on this within the next months or so," he said.

It is also promoting an export processing zone in the north of the Gulf of Suez and a fiscal system which might exempt factories from all forms of taxation in proportion to the amount of their output which they export.

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Labour Ministry to intensify inspection of non-Jordanian workers

☆☆ ACCORDING to informed sources, the Ministry of Labour has decided to intensify efforts to regulate the situation of foreign labour in the Kingdom after discovering many non-Jordanians working without permits or being employed in unauthorised jobs. The minister has requested the heads of concerned directorates to intensify the inspection of private and public institutions and to order any worker to leave the Kingdom if found in violation of labour regulations.

The sources said that despite repeated statements, the ministry did not succeed in regulating the situation of about 188,000 non-Jordanian workers out of a total of 288,000 foreign labourers staying in the country. The minister recently indicated that during the three-month grace period given to non-Jordanian workers last summer to sort out their status in the Kingdom, the ministry regulated the stay for about 100,000 persons only. A memorandum prepared by the ministry showed that of 86,340 work permits given to Arab nationals last year 81,845 permits were for Egyptian workers. Housemaids who had work permits totalled 6,273 of whom 1,517 were Arab nationals and 4,756 were non-Arabs. According to the memorandum, foreign workers were employed in three main areas: 35.3 per cent in construction, loading and unloading and other unskilled jobs as well as some professions such as carpentry, blacksmithing, sewing and shoemaking. Agricultural labourers accounted for 34.3 per cent of the permits and the remaining 27.8 per cent were for housemaids and other workers in hotels, restaurants and cafes (Al Aswaq)

Loans extended to municipalities, village councils reach JD 5m in 1995

☆☆ LOANS EXTENDED by the Cities and Villages Development Bank in 1995 to various municipalities and village councils amounted to JD 5 million, and, according to the minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, the bank is expected to boost its lending to JD 7 million this year. He said the loans could finance productive projects that would generate fixed income to the municipalities in line with the objectives of the bank that aim at helping the municipalities achieve self-financing. The minister has submitted a recommendation to the Council of Minister to increase the bank's capital from JD 12 to JD 25 million. The bank's general general, Zuhair Khalifeh, said the recommendation was based on the good financial situation of the bank and the accumulation of a high reserve that topped JD 17.7 million at the end of 1995. The bank financed 113 projects last year in addition to extending JD 500,000 in interest-free loans (Al Dustour + Al Ra'i).

Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) boosts pretax profit to JD 2.45m

☆☆ THE ARAB Banking Corporation (Jordan) boosted profit before tax last year by six per cent to JD 2.45 million and the management is considering the distribution of a half share free to shareholders in the context of raising the bank's capital from JD 10 million to JD 20 million. Noting that there will not be cash dividends for 1995, the bank's general manager Jawad Hadid, said the bank will also float five million shares for private subscription towards raising the capital. Unveiling other financial results for 1995, he said that total assets had risen to JD 171 million and that share-holders' equity increased from JD 14 million in 1994 to Jd 16 million last year. Mr. Hadid said operations at the new main branch and management building would start at the beginning of March 1996 (Al Aswaq).

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 16/1/96	New York Close Date 19/1/96
Sterling Pound	1.5185	1.5105
Deutsche Mark	1.4724	1.4805
Swiss Franc	1.1885	1.1925
French Franc	5.0315	5.0535
Japanese Yen	105.49	105.33
European Currency Unit	1.2600	1.2450**

USD Per SDR
European Opening -- 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 19/1/1996

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.31	5.18	5.12	4.93
Sterling Pound	6.25	6.18	6.12	6.06
Deutsche Mark	3.37	3.25	3.18	3.12
Swiss Franc	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
French Franc	4.06	4.06	4.06	4.06
Japanese Yen	0.25	0.31	0.37	0.43
European Currency Unit	5.61	5.75	5.62	5.56

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals Date: 19/1/1996

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	399.30	7.40	Silver	5.45	0.100

21 karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 20/1/1996

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7050	0.7100
Sterling Pound	1.0676	1.0729
Deutsche Mark	0.4775	0.4799
Swiss Franc	0.5925	0.5958
French Franc	0.1400	0.1407
Japanese Yen	0.6707	0.6741
Dutch Guilder	0.4270	0.4291
Swedish Krona	******	******
Italian Lira	0.0447	0.0449
Belgian Franc	*****	******

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 20/1/1996

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8260	1.8760
Lebanese Lira	0.044250	0.044650
Saudi Riyal	0.1870	0.1898
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3070	2.3670
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1945
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.8330	1.8410
UAE Dirham	0.1922	0.1935
Greek Drachma	0.2875	0.3150
Cyprini Pound	1.4875	1.5540

Per 100

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI JEWELLERS
Gems of the world . All birthstones in 18 & 21 K gold . Unique designs .
Amra Hotel Shops 6th circle, Amman .

Furnished Apartment For Rent
In Um Uthaina, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, ground floor, telephone. Other apartments and villas
Furnished/unfurnished for rent or sale
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605, 810609, 810520

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-
• JUMBO photo size 30% larger
• Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swefieh tel: 823891

A SECURE Hotel Swelfiyeh
Turino
Flat.O.TEL
SECURITY
HOSPITALITY
GASTRONOMY
All Suites Hotel
FLAT .O. TEL
الاجنحه الفندقيه المكيفه
الملوكيه بمستوى عالمي جديد!
863944 - 816690

Cheers Cafe'
Hamburgers + Pizzas
ELITE CAFE' Sweifiyeh
816690
At Turino

SANABEL REAL ESTATE
FOR RENT
Deluxe Villas & Appartments in Amman
for further details please call
Tel. 864230
Fax. 864231

Your Address in Amman
CRYSTAL
Quality Furnished Suites
One and Two Bedrooms
Reasonable Rates For Short or Long Stay
5th Circle - 692672

EURO DOLLAR RENT A CAR
Make Car Rental Simple
Shmeisani
Tel: 693399

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times
Call tel:
667171 ext. 223

TOKYO GARDENS Japanese Restaurant
Teppanyaki
Sashimi
Sushi
For Res. 812997 - 814118
Mecca St. Daoud Center

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times
Call tel:
667171 ext. 223

La Cuisine Restaurant
Taste The Difference
Live Music Nightly
Lunch & Dinner
SHMESANI TEL 680093

MAURICE AKKAWI & SONS
Francesco smalto Men's Wear
Louis Féraud Ladies Wear
Amra Hotel Commercial Center
Tel. 864721

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times
Call tel:
667171 ext. 223

L'olivier French Cuisine
Abdoun - Tel : 819564
Mobil Phone - (079) 29339

Escape Pub
NOUROZ Restaurant
Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle
Tel: 642830
WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE INTERCONTINENTAL
COCKTAILS, SNACKS & LIVE MUSIC

AVIS RENT A CAR
We try harder.
Main office
King Abdullah Gardens
Tel. 699420

CROWN HOTEL
*INDOOR HEATED SWIMMING POOL
*SAUNA & JACUZZI
*FITNESS ROOM
*SQUASH COURT
TEL 768180
RADIO & TV STATION RD.

Assaraya
ASSARAYA Rent a car
Head Office
Tel. 06-684771 / Fax 684973
Aqaba Office
Tel. 03-316265 / Fax 316265
Emergency Call 24 Hours
079 / 21526
Shmisani King Abdullah Gardens

Jazz beat Orlando; Seattle lose in OT

SALT LAKE CITY (R) — Karl "the mailman" Malone delivered 37 points and the NBA's premier passer, John Stockton, dished out 17 assists as the Utah Jazz halted a two-game slide with a 111-99 win over the Orlando Magic on Friday.

Malone, who was 15-of-24 from the field, added 11 rebounds and eight assists, Stockton scored 15 points and Jeff Hornacek added 23 for the Jazz, who improved to 13-4 at home.

Nick Anderson scored 29 points, including a 9-for-12 performance from three-point range, and Shaquille O'Neal and Penny Hardaway added 19 apiece for Orlando, which has been invincible at home but dropped to just 8-10 on the road.

After Brian Shaw opened the fourth quarter by converting a three-point play to give the Magic an 86-82 lead, Hornacek hit a 15-footer to spark a 16-3 run that left Utah with a 98-89 advantage with 5:15 left.

Dennis Scott scored 12 points, O'Neal had eight rebounds and Hardaway added nine assists for Orlando.

In Seattle, Patrick Ewing poured in 41 points, pulled down 16 rebounds and keyed an 8-0 run in overtime as the New York Knicks held off the Supersonics, 100-97.

John Starks scored 17 points and Derek Harper added 15 for New York, which improved to 11-6 on the road.

Shawn Kemp had 25 points and 14 rebounds and Gary Payton added 22 points for Seattle, which had its 10-game home winning streak snapped.

After Nate McMillan hit a three-pointer to give the Supersonics a 94-91 lead with 2:03 left in overtime, Ewing made a bucket to ignite the game-deciding burst.

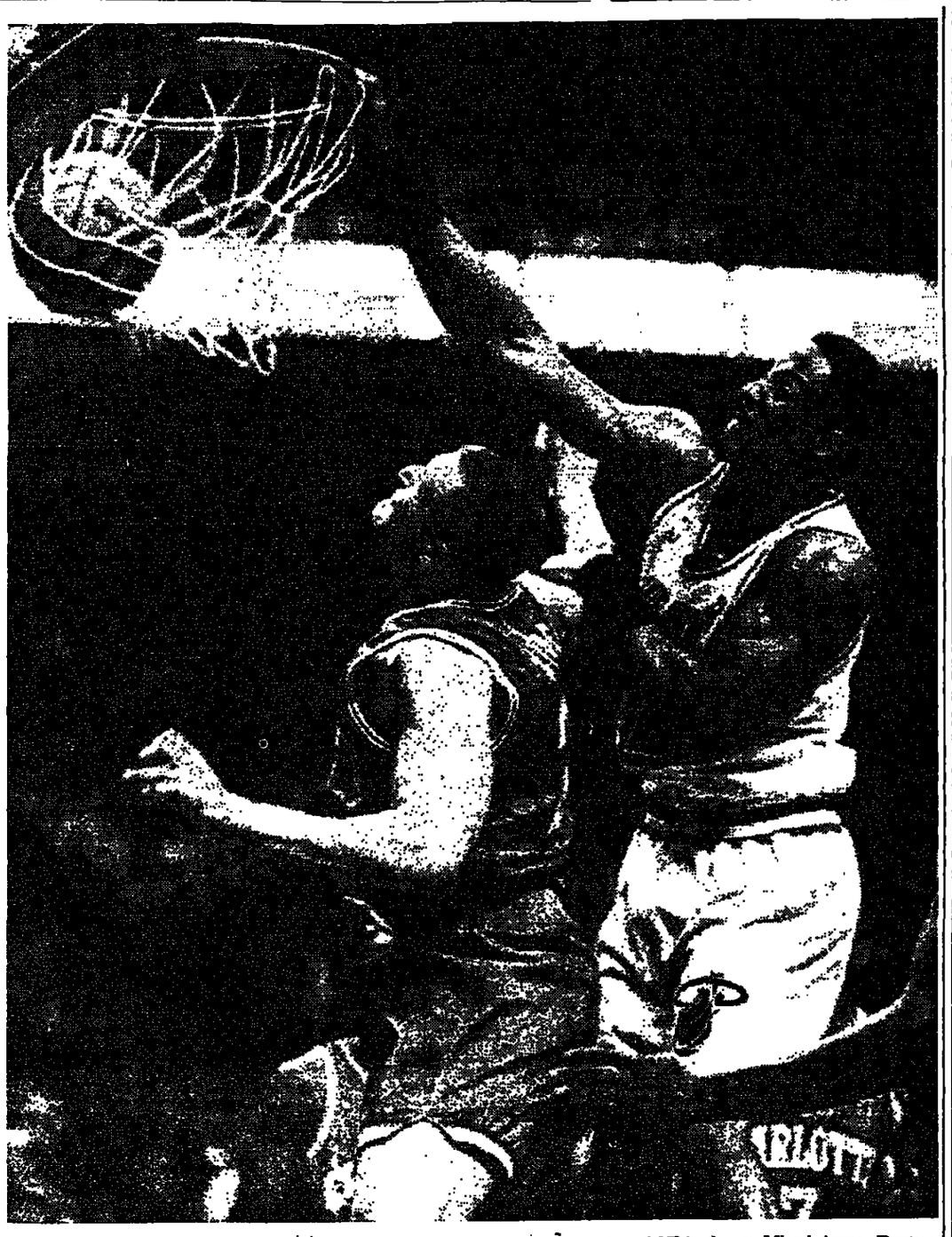
At Indiana, Rik Smits scored 25 points and hit a tie-breaking bucket with 1:52 to play as the Pacers blew a 12-point fourth-quarter lead but recovered for an 89-81 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Indiana won for the eighth time in 10 games and ran their home winning streak to 11 games.

"Down the stretch, we did come up with some big plays and that kept our home streak going," Smits said.

Reggie Miller added 22 points for Indiana, including five free throws in the final minute to preserve the victory. Allan Houston had 21 points and Grant Hill added 20 for the Pistons.

At Minnesota, Isaiah Rider scored 27 points and Christian Laettner scored six of his 11 in a key 17-7 third-quarter run as the Timberwolves ran their modest winning streak to three games with a 100-92 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.



Miami Heat centre Alonzo Mourning (right) dunks the ball over Charlotte Hornets centre George Zidek (left) during the first quarter of NBA play at Miami Arena (Reuters photo)

Darrick Martin had 14 points and a career-high 13 assists, Sam Mitchell scored 16 points and Tom Gugliotta had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Minnesota, which beat San Antonio for just the fourth time in 33 all-time meetings.

Brad Lohaus scored 22 points, David Robinson added 21 points and 15 rebounds to pace the Spurs.

In Dallas, Tony Dumas scored 13 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter as the Mavericks beat the Boston Celtics 129-124, giving them consecutive wins for the first time since Nov. 9.

Jim Jackson led the Mavericks with 31 points on 11-of-19 shooting and Jason Kidd added 23 points, 12 assists, six rebounds and four steals.

David Wesley had 25 points, including five three-pointers, for the Celtics, who have dropped 11 of their last 14 games.

In Miami, Larry Johnson scored 29 points and Glen Rice chipped in 28 as the Charlotte Hornets downed the Heat 114-106 to move within one game of the .500 mark.

Miami centre Alonzo Mourning had 32 points and matched a career-high with 22 rebounds against his former club.

Johnson scored 18 of his points in the first quarter on 7-of-7 shooting, including 4-of-4 from three-point range.

Miami shot 11-of-26 from three-point range, but committed 23 turnovers, leading to 34 Charlotte points.

In Baltimore, Brent Price made five free throws in the final 30 seconds and set an NBA record with his 13th consecutive three-pointer to lift the Washington Bullets past the New Jersey Nets 93-87.

Price, who finished with 16 points, buried two free throws with 23 seconds left, hit one 11 seconds later and added two more to lift Washington to a 92-87 lead.

Chris Webber finished with 25 points, eight assists and seven rebounds for Washington, which climbed back to the .500 mark through 38 games.

Armon Gilliam led the Nets with 32 points and 14 rebounds.

In Philadelphia, Mookie Blaylock scored 23 points, including four in the final 49 seconds, and Steve Smith added 17 as the Atlanta Hawks rallied for their sixth straight win, an 82-77 victory over the 76ers.

Andrew Lang had 12 points and Grant Long had 12 rebounds and seven assists for Atlanta.

Vernon Maxwell scored 20 points and Trevor Ruffin had 18 and six assists for the Sixers.

In Portland, Gary Trent scored a season-high 21 points off the bench and Arvydas Sabonis added 17 points as the Trail Blazers rolled past the slumping Phoenix Suns 101-84.

Portland, which played without injured starters Rod Strickland and Clifford Robinson, won for the fifth time in its last six games.

Phoenix fell to 0-2 under Cotton Fitzsimmons, who returned as coach Tuesday after Paul Westphal was fired.

Michale Finley and Wayman Tisdale scored 18 points apiece for the injury-plagued Suns, losers of seven of eight.

In Los Angeles, Cedric Ceballos scored 12 of his 25 points in the decisive third quarter and Nick Van Exel added 23 to lift the visiting Lakers to their season-high fourth straight victory, a 106-100 win over the Clippers.

Loy Vaught scored 28 points and grabbed 15 rebounds while Terry Dehere chipped in 17 points for the Clippers, who have dropped three in a row.

The Lakers built an 84-71 lead after three quarters with a dominating 27-12 third period.

RESULTS

Indiana	89	Detroit	81
Atlanta	82	Philadelphia	77
Washington	93	New Jersey	87
Charlotte	114	Miami	106
Minnesota	100	San Antonio	92
Dallas	129	Boston	124
Utah	111	Orlando	99
Portland	101	Phoenix	84
LA Lakers	106	LA Clippers	100
New York	100	Seattle	97 (OT)

1st Division Basketball Championship

Orthodoxi top standings as Ahli lose to Jazireh

By Aleen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Basketball fans who did not attend Friday night's Jazireh-Ahli match thinking Al Ahli would score an outright win missed one of the most thrilling matches in Jordanian basketball for years.

Most enthusiasts of the game in fact did not attend knowing that Al Ahli who won the title in the past three years would surely beat their opponents.

While Al Jazireh had given former champions Al Orthodoxi a hard time before losing 72-66, they were expected to rise up to the challenge of facing the Kingdom's most-coherent lineup of players while only trying to keep a slight difference in the score.

But what no one expected was Al Jazireh's 76-73 win over Al Ahli!

It was Al Jazireh's first win over Al Ahli in decades and Al Ahli's first defeat in Jordanian basketball since 1991. In fact Al Ahli had only lost to Al Orthodoxi whenever they were defeated as both teams have maintained an unrivalled dominance over the game for decades.

How Al Jazireh came out victorious is still perplexing for those who follow up the game. Yet the first post-match statements of both coaches partly explains the result.

"We have been working for this for a long time. We know we can and will improve our standing. If we don't take first place this season we'll do it next year," Al Jazireh's coach Fadi Sabbah told the Jordan Times.

On the other hand, Al Ahli's assistant coach Ghaith Al Najjar preferred to say: "No comment."

Logic and expectations had it that Al Ahli would of course win and maintain a winning streak before facing all-time rivals Al Orthodoxi. The reasons for such expectations is the circumstances surrounding both camps.

While Al Ahli are playing this championship without star centre Naser Bushnaq who is currently playing in Qatar, the team had a thorough training schedule and were expecting to overcome Al Orthodoxi who are now relying on a young relatively inexperienced lineup.

Al Jazireh on the other hand did not have any serious preparation for the championship. They not only lost the efforts of a key player Naser Alawneh who quit the team but coach Imad Al Saeed also abruptly left for Austria.

The team was only recently handed over to coach Fadi Sabbah who had less than a month to prepare the players, mostly of the U-22 team, lacking fitness and proper matches prior to the competition.

Marwan Ma'touq

Yousef Abu Baker

"I do not expect any team to seriously challenge us for five years at the least," Al Ahli's Najjar had told the Jordan Times prior to the start of the championship.

However, Al Ahli will not only have to seriously consider Al Orthodoxi's challenge but also Al Jazireh's as well. Second round matches of the three teams will be crucial in the fight for the title.

Al Orthodoxi now lead the standings after they beat Al Jalil 80-50 in another match Friday and will face Al Ahli in the first round final Thursday Jan. 25.

Jazireh-Ahli 76-73

While Al Ahli were saved by veteran Marwan Ma'touq, Al Jazireh's hero was Husam Lutfi.

Ma'touq scored 26 points for Al Ahli (including 7 three-pointers) while Lufti scored 23 points for Al Jazireh.

At first Al Ahli appeared well below their usual scoring average and everyone thought they would improve as the match progressed.

Scoring remained close at first with Al Jazireh leading 7-4 and 20-16 after a three-pointer by playmaker Saqer Khirfan.

Al Ahli tied the score in the 16th minute and the score remained close throughout the half which Al Jazireh ended at 31-30 with seven consecutive points by Lutfi.

While Yousef Zaghloul, who did not score in the first half and only had six points throughout the match, was out with three fouls the burden of scoring fell on Ma'touq who gave his team a 37-33 lead and again at 42-35 after a three-pointer. Al Jazireh's Ghaith Ennabi earned his fourth personal four greatly hampering his playing ability.

Al Ahli led 44-35 and over 200 attending fans thought Al Ahli had things in control. However, in the following five minutes Al Jazireh led by Yousef Abu Baker outscored their opponents 13-1 to take the lead 48-45 displaying that they were not contemplating defeat.

Al Ahli's captain Zaghloul then netted two consecutive three pointers to tie the score 51-51. However again Al Jazireh's players outscored the titleholders 14-2 to take their biggest lead in the game at 65-53.

Al Ahli's Mohammad Al Shamali who together with Ma'touq came through for his team at the difficult moments showed a fighting spirit which his teammates seemed to lack in this match.

Al Ahli narrowed the gap to 67-61 as Ma'touq, Shamali and Ramez Hammoudeh scored, while Al Jazireh's Ma'an Odeh secured rebounding for his team and scored to keep his team's lead 69-61.

While the gap was reduced, Al Jazireh kept their lead at 70-65 and 72-66 before Ma'touq sank in two consecutive three pointers that reduced Al Jazireh's lead to 74-72.

The final minute was difficult for both teams, especially their fans.

Al Jazireh's Khirfan scored from a free throw to make it 75-72. With 0.23 second remaining Al Ahli realised that only a three pointer would tie the match. However with 0.11 seconds remaining such an attempt by Ma'touq was fouled and he had a chance to tie the score from free throws. Ma'touq's superb shooting ability then failed him and Al Jazireh sealed the match with a precious 76-73 win.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	PTS
Orthodoxi	3	3	-	285	181	6
Ahli	3	2	1	270	171	5
Jazireh	3	2	1	202	185	5
Jalil	4	1	3	228	273	5
Watani	3	-	3	163	338	3

African Nations Cup

S. African improve chances; Ghana, Gabon in quarters

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Mark Williams' goal booked South Africa, 1-0 winners over Angola here on Saturday, an almost certain quarter-final spot in the African Nations Cup.

South Africa seemed unsettled by the wet conditions and looked a different side from the exuberant team which thrashed Cameroon 3-0 in the opening match of the tournament last Saturday.

But in the 57th minute, an Eric Tinkler free kick was parried by Angola keeper Orlando, and williams, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, pounced on the loose ball and fired home.

Angola, who lost 2-1 to Egypt, have virtually no chance of making the quarter-finals.

South Africa were particularly subdued in the first half.

Midfielder Eric Tinkler hit the crossbar in the first minute, but from then on, neither side had a serious chance in the first period.

About 40,000 turned out for the match, a great deal less than the approximate 60,000, who turned out for South Africa's 3-0 win in the opening match of the tournament last Saturday.

Worrying for South Africa coach Clive Barker, Angola, mere outsiders for the event, had most of the possession before the break and looked comfortable in midfield, with Joni prominent.

Campos was nearly through in the 19th minute after South Africa defender Sizwe Motaung hit a terrible back pass to keeper Andre Arendse, who just got to the ball in time.

A minute later, Buthelezi hit a long-range shot well over, and Paulao countered with an effort just wide of Arendse's post on the half hour.

After the break, South Africa came more into the match, with "Shoes" Moschoeu heading on target, moments before Leeds United striker Phil Masinga shot over.

And two minutes before the goal, Angola had their beset chance of the match when Tubia shot straight at Arendse from 10-yards following a goalmouth scramble.

Masinga, prominent throughout, had an eventful last half-hour.

After immense pressure from South Africa, a Masinga header hit the stanchion of Angola's goal minutes before he was stretchered from the field suffering from cramp.

Then, with four minutes to go, Masinga was booked for knocking the ball into the net with his hand.

Ghana, Gabon in quarters

Ghana and Gabon became the first two African Nations Cup sides to book their places in the quarter-finals on Friday.

Ghana beat Tunisia 2-1 in Port Elizabeth with goals from Abedi Pele and Charles Akonnor to top Group D with six points. Imed Ben Younes equalised for Tunisia.

Gabon beat Zaire 2-0 in Durban, enough to earn them a quarter-final spot after losing 2-1 to Liberia in their first match. Brice Mackaya hit a 21st minute penalty and Aurelien Bekogo-Zolo scored a spectacular goal in the 34th minute.

It was Gabon's first ever victory in the finals after two heavy which Johannesburg by at least two goals whcih would take them and Gabon into the quarter-finals together on goal difference.

Atoning for their bad finishing in front of goal on Tuesday in a 2-1 defeat to Liberia, Gabon made no mistake this time with two first half goals.

Gabon striker Guy Roger Nzamba had a hand in both.

He was brought down by Zairean goalkeeper Pangi Merikani in the 21st minute when he chased a through ball into the box from Aurelien Bikogo-Zolo.

Brice Mackaya scored from the resulting penalty.

Nzamba dummied his way past two defenders 13 minutes later on the right before slipping the ball across the face of the goal for the unmarked Bikogo-Zolo to blast past Merikani.

Drug-free Nations Cup: *Chariman of the African Nations Cup and medical committee Peter Matsheke revealed there had been no positive drugs tests at the tournament so far.*

At half-time of each match, an official and representatives of either team select two players' numbers from both teams at random from a bag.

The players are identified 15 minutes before the end of each match and taken to the medical centre where samples are taken by a CAF appointed doctor.

The university of Bloemfontein is the site for the tests, the only IOC approved laboratory in Africa.

Decision on Nigeria at end of month: *African Federation (CAF) president, Issa Hayatou revealed on Saturday a two-day meeting of the tournament organising committee would be held on Jan. 28 and 29 to discuss problems during the tournament.*

The punishment for Nigeria, who pulled out over fears of players' safety, will be discussed. CAF rules state any team which pulls out of the event 20 days before the start, as happened with Nigeria, will be banned for the next two tournaments in 1998 and 2000.

And FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter confirmed any CAF suspension would be upgraded worldwide.

However Hayatou denied the meeting would be dominated with discussions over Nigeria's punishment. "There are many other items on the agenda," he told AFP.

Scouts converge on Africa: *The African Nations Cup has attracted much interest from football observers around the world. Italy's coach Arrigo Saachi is expected in the country to watch the knock-out stages of the event, according to organisers.*

Ivory Coast keeper warns of tricky Mozambique

PORT ELIZABETH (AFP) — Ivory Coast's Alain Gouamene, playing a record-equalling sixth consecutive African Nations Cup, warned Mozambique, their opponents here on Sunday (kick 1230 GMT), could prove a tougher proposition than expected.

"We have at least to beat Mozambique, who surprised Tunisia, if we hope to reach our goal and qualify for the quarter-finals," said Gouamene. "But we must watch out — it's a tricky match."

Goalkeeper Gouamene, who holds the record of Nations Cup appearances with 28-year-old compatriot Abdoulaye Traore, said they should not be too downhearted to find themselves bottom of Port Elizabeth's Group D.

Ivory Coast lost 2-0 to Ghana in their first match.

"We have 12 new faces compared to the squad in Tunisia two years ago. And Anthony Yeboah and Abedi Pele are great players, who scored magnificent goals which I could do nothing about," Gouamene added.

Toulouse keeper Gouamene only came to this event in an emergency request from French Ivory Coast coach Pierre Pleimelding when the first choice keeper got injured. He was not on the original 22-name list.

Gouamene, 29, reached the pinnacle of African football when Ivory Coast won the title in 1992, when he kept five clean sheets.

He was voted best keeper of the tournament after fabulous saves in the semi-final and final. He saved a penalty in open play against Cameroon in the semi-final, before saving another three in the shootout.

And in the final shootout, he saved the championship-winning penalty from Ghana's Anthony Baffoe, a former Metz and Nice player.

Both Ivory Coast and Mozambique need to win to give themselves a good chance of qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Sampras crashes out of Australian Open

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — Pete Sampras lost his world No. 1 ranking when he was bludgeoned out of the Australian Open in straight sets on Saturday by towering Australian teenager Mark Philippoussis.

Playing in front of a fiercely partisan crowd on the Flinders Park centre court, the 19-year-old Philippoussis produced the performance of his young life to decisively beat the top-seeded American 6-4, 7-6 (11-9) 7-6 (7-3) in two hours 13 minutes.

Sampras, who had won 16 consecutive Grand Slam matches, including Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, had few answers to his opponent's pounding serves and penetrating ground strokes which grew more confident and lethal as the end drew near.

His stunning exit means that Sampras loses the number one spot to fellow American and world number two Andre Agassi or Austrian Thomas Muster, who are both through to the final 16.

Sampras, in his worst Grand Slam result in five years, tried charging the net to take control of the match in the third set but failed to prevent a deciding tiebreak.

A resigned Sampras later pointed to his 40th-ranked rival's serve as the key to his improbably victory.

"I did not play badly but when he's serving that big there is nothing you can do. He is very talented. Time will tell if he can be that consistent week in, week out," he told a post-match news conference.

Philippousis, still shaking his head at the power and accuracy he unleased on his serve, told reporters after the match that he never felt better on his own delivery.

"Tonight was like nothing else I have felt before. I felt I couldn't do anything wrong on the service tonight," he said.

"I was so confident on my serve. I just felt I could toss it up and ace (it). It was an unbelievable feeling."

Philippoussis said he tried to forget his opponent was the world's top player and took each point at a time, but his nerves told as he served for victory in the final tiebreak.

"I was serving for the match and my hand was just shaking.... I'm just happy the serve went in," he said.

"I believe in myself now and that I can beat anyone in the world after tonight," he added.

Earlier Boris Becker played one of his finest matches at the Australian Open to crush fierce-hitting Swede Magnus Larsson and reach the fourth round here Saturday.

Becker, drawn into two five-set dogfights in his opening two matches, had a relitively easy task against 19th-ranked Larsson — who missed a seeding by two ranking placings — to romp home, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 6-3 in 110 minutes.

Ball boys wipe dry the centre court with towels after a heavy rain shower stopped play during the third round match between Australia's Michael Yebbutt and Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 20. The roof was closed and the match continued (Reuters photo)

Yevgeny Kafelnikov

"That was one of my better matches here at the Australian Open," 28-year-old Becker said. "I haven't had many good ones over the years, but that was one of my top ones.

"I had an extremely good start and the problem with Magnus is that when he is down he goes a lot for his shots and plays very risky."

Becker, a winner here in 1991, relished the opportunity of playing his centre court match with the roof closed after rain.

"Obviously, when it's indoors I like it very much, but on the other hand I had an opponent who likes it too and he has won big titles," said Becker.

"I had very good timing on my serve and that started in the last two sets of my last match (against Swede Thomas Johansson). It just went on today... I faced one break point in the whole match and Magnus is not a really bad returner."

Becker's next opponent will be either New Zealander Brett Steven or Dutchman Jan Siemerink, whose match was twice rain-interrupted Saturday.

Becker deserved the first set, which went to a tiebreaker. He had break points in the fifth game and took Larsson to deuce in the seventh game.

He grabbed an early breakthrough in the second set smashing a winner at 0-40 in the second game and surviving the sole break point against him in the ninth game to go two-up.

The triple Wimbledon champion again broke the Swede to love in the seventh game of the third set when Larsson sent a backhand into the net.

Larsson again conceded his serve in the ninth game with three rash efforts, with Becker taking the match on the first of two match points at 15-40.

Sixth seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov overcame a rain-delay as the retractable roof enclosed the centre court to best 112th-ranked Australian Michael Tebbutt in a third round match, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 in two hours 41 minutes.

The Russian, one of the hardest working players on the men's circuit will take on American Mali Vai Washington in the round of 16. Washington ousted Colombian Mauricio Hadad in straight sets.

Kafelnikov declared: "I like my chances if I get through the next round, just watch out, I'm going to be very dangerous."

Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, the seventh seed, overcame Argentina's Hernan Gumy 6-2, 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-1 to move into the fourth round where he will face either 10th seed Goran Ivanisevic or Italian Renzo Furlan, whose match was delayed until Sunday because of the rain.

Before early afternoon storms hit the Flinders Park complex, women's seeds, No. 8 Anke Huber and No. 10 Lindsay Davenport had straight set wins.

Huber swept through Ludmila Richterova in 55 minutes winning 6-2, 6-1, while big-hitting Davenport accounted for Finland's Nanne Dahlman, 6-4, 7-5.

Swiss Starlet, 15-year-old Martine Hingis breezed past Japanese Mana Endo, 6-1, 6-1 to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the second time. The first was at last year's U.S. Open in New York.

Second seed Conchita Martinez, playing indoors, whipped through young German Jana Kandarr, 6-3, 6-0.

Bailey bests Powell, Surin

MONTREAL (R) — Canadian Donovan Bailey exploded at the tape to win the 60 metres at the Montreal Grand Prix indoor athletics meeting on Friday.

Bailey's victory in 6.54 seconds left Donovan Powell of Jamaica second in 6.55 and world indoor champion and hometown hero Bruny Surin third in 6.58.

Bailey earned $1,500 for winning the race and an extra $5,00 for winning a three-race sprint series that started in Hamilton, Ontario last Friday.

In that meet, Bailey was first in the 50 metres, Powell second and Surin fourth. Two days later in Saskatoon, Surin claimed the 60 metres with Powell again second and Bailey third.

Powell earned $3,000 for being second in the series and Surin collected $2,000 for being third based on the cumulative times of the three races.

Bailey was pleased with victory, if not his form. "I concentrated on the start too much and had I accelerated in the middle as I usually do I would have run a better time and a better race.

"If I stay healthy this should be a great year. I intend to win every race I enter and no matter how I do it, if I win I'm happy, sort of."

The finish was true Bailey with a blinding burst of speed over the last 20 metres that carried him past Powel and Surin in front of a pro-Surin crowd.

"I'm disappointed," said Surin, who finished second to Bailey at the world championships in Sweden. "He won the battle, but he didn't win the war. The war will be in Atlanta."

Veteran Irish miler Marcus O'Sullivan came from behind to win the mile in four minutes, 03.97 seconds.

"I was happy with the result, but not with the time," he said. "I apologise for not breaking four minutes, but maybe I'll be invited back and I'll fix that."

O'Sullivan, who has recorded more than 85 sub-four minute miles, says he wants to retire when he done it 100 times.

Sevatheda Fynes of Bahamas was the women's star of the night as she claimed victory at both 60 metres and 200 metres.

American Bill Deering won the pole vault for the third time in as many meets, this time with a vault of 5.55 metres. But he missed three times at 5.66, which would have established a Canadian indoor record.

Mexico's Cuautemoc Blanco (15) and Guatemala's Eduardo Acevedo battle to control the ball, during first half action in their semifinal match in the CONCACAF tournament in San Diego (Reuters photo)

Mexico take on Brazil in CONCACAF final

SAN DIEGO (R) — Mexico placed themselves on the verge of repeating as CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer champions by edging Guatemala 1-0 in a semifinal match on Friday.

Cuauhtemoc Blanco scored in the second half to relieve the anxieties of a delirious pro-Mexico crowd of 42,221 and preserve the job of manager Bora Milutinovic for at least one more match.

Mexico, winner of the last Gulf Cup tournament in 1993, needed more than an hour to subdue a stubborn Guatemalan defence and advance to Sunday's final against Brazil.

Brazil, whose under-23 squad has won three matches in the competition without conceding a goal, beat the United States 1-0 in the other semifinal played on Thursday.

Blanco, one of eight Olympic team players chosen by Milutinovic, ran onto Joaquin del Olmo's throw-in to roll his shot past Guatemalan goalkeeper Edgar Estrada in the 64th minute for his first goal of the tournament.

Mexico fielded three changes from the squad which also edged Guatemala 1-0 five days ago in a Group A match and started off running.

But despite playing with three forwards and midfielders Ramon Ramirez, Joaquin de Olmo and Alberto Garcia Aspe pushing foward, Mexico struggled to break down a six-man Guatemalan back line fortified with an effective offside trap.

Neither team generated a serious scoring chance for most of the first half, and when Mexico did break through, they found Estrada in sharp form.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

©1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

NO FREE LUNCH

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 4
♡ K 8 7 3
◇ K 9 5 4
♣ Q 10

WEST
♠ J 9 7
♡ A J 8 5
◇ Q 10 6 3 2
♣ 2

EAST
♠ Q 8
♡ Q 10 4 2
◇ A J 7
♣ J 9 8 4

SOUTH
♠ A 6 5 3 2
♡ 9
◇ 8
♣ A K 7 6 5 3

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	Pass	1◇	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Two of ♣

Beware of the possibility of cheap tricks. Keeping your lines of communication open can be more important than winning a trick with a relatively low card.

South's bidding showed at least ten cards in the black suits. North correctly raised to game in spades and West attacked with the deuce of clubs.

Obviously, the club lead was either from length or a singleton. Declarer tried to protect against both possibilities by finessing the ten, covered by the jack and captured by the ace. Declarer cashed the king and ace of spades and, leaving the high trump outstanding, started on clubs.

A club to the queen was allowed to win, and declarer's predicament began to dawn — there was no fast entry back to the closed. Declarer tried the king of diamonds, but the defenders were alert. East won the ace and shifted to a heart to West's ace. West drew the remaining trump and declarer ended up losing a trick in each suit — down one.

Let's return to trick one and see what happens if South simply wins the first trick with the queen of clubs, then cashes two high trumps. Now, declarer can start on clubs from the top. West can ruff at any time, but it doesn't help the defense — declarer still has three trumps in hand and dummy one. The table's trump will be used to ruff a club, setting up the suit, and no matter how the defense proceeds, declarer will always have at least one trump with which to get back to hand to cash the good clubs.

Toyota favourites for Monte Carlo

PARIS (R) — Fearless German Armin Schwarz sets off on Saturday favourite to win the non-World Championship but still prestigious Monte Carlo Rally.

Schwarz will be driving a new Toyota Celica GT-four entered by private Italian team Grifone and bought from Toyota team Europe after they were banned for cheating in the Catalonia rally in Spain in October.

The car has been prepared to exactly the same specification that it would have had if the works team had not been thrown out of the 1996 World Series.

Most leading constructors are shunning the winter classic, which still carries its unique multi-city start, and will begin their seasons with the championship opener in Sweden next month.

"At the time they were banned, Toyota were preparing cars to come here, knowing that the race would not be part of the World Championship," said rally official Rene Isoart. "It's a pity because we believe that if they had been allowed to come, others would have followed."

Organisers, sharing non-championship status with the tour of Corsica and the season-ending British Rac Rally, believe there would still be much interest in the Monte.

"We don't really mind as we'll have over 150 participants," said Rally spokesman Patric Mannoury. "Last year's San Remo rally had only 80."

French constructor Peugeot, back in the rally after a 10-year absence, will also be a rated contender, with two experienced French drivers in Francois Delecour and Francois Chatriot.

VOLVO FOR SALE

Duty unpaid, 1983 Volvo 760 GLE, 6 cylinders, great condition, silver, mileage: 107,000 Km. JD 3,200 or best offer.
Call: 617945

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consisting of 3 bedrooms, salon, dining room and utilities. ***Location:*** Beginning of Wasfi Al Tal Street, near Safeway.
Please call Tel: 688654, 776838

FOR RENT

Deluxe unfurnished apartment, 280 sq.m., with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, panoramic sitting and dining rooms, located in Swefieh, behind the Catholic Church.
Interested tenants, please call: 812816

WANTED

Experienced chef, full-time position, must have extensive background with American and international cooking, must read English recipes, ability to prepare for 100+ persons, security check and medical clearance required. Salary negotiable and based on experience.
Call 820101 extension 2203
between 10:00 - 12:00 Sunday through Thursday.

Jordan Design & Trade Center cordially invites you to attend
...an exhibition *of* contemporary & traditional jewelry

Jordan Design & Trade Center

The exhibition runs from January 15th - January 31st
NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION
TEL. 699141/2 OPENING HOURS 8:00AM-7:00PM
[Off Wadi Saqra Street, between King Abdullah Gardens & Safeway, 2nd right after gas station]

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
Pierce Brosnan as James Bond 007 in
GOLDENEYE
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:05, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

CINEMA TEL: 699238
PLAZA
POCAHONTAS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5 p.m.
Sylvester Stallone....in
JUDGE DREDD
Shows: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
* ACE VENTURA "2"
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:30, 10:30
CONCORD "2"
* Batman Forever
Shows: 3:30
* DISCLOSURE
Shows: 5:30

AMMOUN THEATRE & CINEMA/TEL: 618274 - 618275
The popular star Nadia Al Jundi, Farouq Fishawi, and Mahmoud Hamida in
The Woman that Shook the Throne of Egypt
Show: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
The Lion King
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 5

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre
TEL: 625155
Theplay
"Ahlan Tatbie"
Welcome Normalisation
Shows: 8:30 p.m.
For reservation call 625155

NATO to guard suspected mass graves in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) will send troops to guard suspected mass graves where Bosnian Serbs are accused of hiding the bodies of thousands of murdered Muslims and Croats, peacekeeping sources said on Saturday.

The deployment could take place within days now that NATO has achieved the separation of the former warring sides along most of the 1,000-kilometre front line dividing Serb and Muslim-Croat territory in Bosnia.

The fate of more than 24,000 Muslim men missing in Serb hands during the 3½-year war is holding up a full exchange of registered prisoners.

Some 220 prisoners were handed over on Friday, the deadline for the swap, but another 700 are still in prison.

Red Cross officials said no further prisoner releases were yet planned in Bosnia, despite a senior U.S. official's statement that he expected the 700 still held captive in defiance of an international deadline to be freed.

"More than 700 prisoners are still in jails but the releases must continue," Pierre Gauthier, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), told AFP.

Christophe Girod, another ICRC official, said, however, that there is currently "no sign that anything is going to happen."

Bosnia's three factions released 218 prisoners Friday but fell short of full compliance with a midnight deadline for liberating all those detained during the war.

The deadline, along with a requirement for troops to withdraw from confrontation lines, were important milestones in enforcing the landmark peace accord signed last month in Paris.

Mr. Gauthier said the Americans, who sponsored the peace deal, were "furious" about the non-compliance concerning prisoners but "are obligated to minimise publicly this violation of the accords by saying they are satisfied with the releases Friday."

The ground commander of the NATO force implementing the Bosnian peace accord, British Lieutenant General Michael Walker, met Saturday in Sarajevo with the three factions on compliance with the troop withdrawal and prisoner releases. Gen. Walker has already ruled out military action to force the freeing of prisoners.

Amor Masovic, head of the Bosnian prisoner exchange commission, told AFP there were no releases planned for Saturday.

"Our position is absolutely the same. There will be no release of all prisoners from our prisons until the Serbs release all their prisoners, that is clear," Mr. Masovic said.

Mr. Girod said the situation may change in coming days.

NATO sources said American troop would guard grave sites seen by spy satellites and Western journalists near Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia where Serbs are alleged to have killed several thousand captured Muslim men last July.

British troops would secure other sites around Prijedor in northeast Bosnia. The region includes a mine at Ljubija where Serbs are claimed to have hidden 8,000 corpses of Muslims and Croats killed in 1992-93.

Mass killings by the Bosnian Serbs form the basis of war crimes indictments issued by a U.N. tribunal against "president" Radovan Karadzic and army commander General Ratko Mladic.

NATO ground and air forces were meanwhile checking to ensure that all sides had withdrawn two kilometres from either side of the front line as laid down by the peace agreement.

"Once the zone of separation is out of the way, (securing the grave sites) may well happen quickly," a NATO source said. "We will be asked to do something... it will not go away."

NATO commanders earlier resisted getting involved in the war crimes issue, preferring to concentrate on peacekeeping.

Troops of the first U.S. Armoured Corps are garrisoned 15 kilometres from Srebrenica where journalists who eluded Serb controls this week reported finding gruesome evidence of hasty burials on a huge scale.

Men in Srebrenica were separated from their families after Serbs overran the U.N. safe area in July and 3,000 were reported by U.N. and Red Cross officials to have been shot.

Another 5,000 men from the mountain settlement are missing although some are thought to have escaped to government territory.

Charges against Mr. Karadzic and Gen. Mladic — who was present during the Srebrenica offensive — relate specifically to the killings.

The United States wants to send senior State Department official John Shattuck to Srebrenica as soon as possible.

'ISRAELI CHECK': Israeli police check a Palestinian on his way to vote at a post office in East Jerusalem on Saturday. Israeli police maintained a strong presence in East Jerusalem, something that intimidated many voters and many stayed away from voting in the historic Palestinian elections to a self-rule council and president, neutral observers said (see page one) (AFP photo)

Pope and Chirac avoid N-test issue

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — Pope John Paul and President Jacques Chirac avoided controversy over nuclear testing when the French leader visited the Vatican on Saturday, but demonstrators chanting and carrying banners protested outside the city-state.

Although the Pope only a week ago called for a swift ban on nuclear testing, there was no reference to the issue in the public speeches the two men made during the state visit.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said nuclear testing — which France resumed in the South Pacific last year — also did not come up in talks in the Pope's private study.

A Vatican statement said the 40 minutes of private talks, centrepiece of the pomp-filed first state visit by a French president since Charles de Gaulle in 1959, were "very cordial."

It said the Pope and Mr. Chirac discussed the responsibility of France to defend human rights and promote peace. They also discussed ex-Yugoslavia, Middle East peace and Africa.

The Pope also told Mr. Chirac how much the Vatican cherished freedom of choice in education, the statement said. Previous French governments were involved in rows with the church over attempts to cut off vital subsidies to parochial schools.

Mr. Chirac, wearing a morning coat and a gold ceremonial chain, was whisked into the Vatican to the strains of the French national anthem, the Marseillaise, and the Vatican hyman.

As his motorcade entered St. Peter's Square a small but noisy group of anti-nuclear protesters, one in a Chirac rubber mask, waved flags and banners saying "Chirac, listen to the Pope. Stop nuclear testing".

The square was sealed off. Police moved demonstrators away from a position where they would have been close to Mr. Chirac's passing motorcade.

On Jan. 13, the Pope called for international monitoring of a nuclear test ban treaty — due to be concluded this year — and urged a rapid move towards general total disarmament.

Observers had speculated that he would evoke the subject of France's nuclear tests at Saturday's meeting.

(Continued on page 7)

Gamaa threatens U.S. over Abdul Rahman

CAIRO (AFP) — The militant Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah threatened Saturday to attack U.S. leaders and interests to avenge a life sentence handed down by a U.S. court on its spiritual leader Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman.

A statement from the Egypt's main armed group sent to AFP threatened to "hit American interests and personalities" and bring the United States to "its knees" until it releases Sheikh Abdul Rahman and nine co-accused.

The blind sheikh was sentenced to life imprisonment by a New York court on Wednesday for his role in plotting a sweeping extremist campaign against U.S. targets and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Sentences for his nine co-defendants ranged from life to 25 years behind bars.

"The Gamaa Al Islamiyah commits itself before God to reply blow for blow and announces that American interests and personalities are from now on legitimate targets for its jihad (holy war) until Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and his brothers are freed from American prisons," the statement said.

"The Americans have chosen war on Islam and will not be victorious because God has promised us victory," it said, calling on "all Muslims across the world to revenge the attacks on their sacred principles and bring the Americsns to their knees."

Security measures have already been stepped up around the U.S. embassy in Cairo, one of the largest in the Middle East, after the verdict.

"The plot against the virtuous Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman will not go unpunished and the United States will understand that they are incapable of confronting the soldiers of God, who desire death as much as their soldiers desire life," the Gamaa added.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 57, denied all charges and told the court: "I pay the price of those who do God's work... my killing will be a martyrdom in the cause of God."

The blind cleric was convicted on Oct. 1, 1995, nine months after his trial began.

The Gamaa has spearheaded a bloody campaign to topple Mr. Mubarak's government which has left more than 940 people dead since it was launched in March 1992.

So far the group had just waged its campaign on Egypt, it said in the statement. But it accused the Egyptian government of "fighting Islam on its soil to serve the Americans."

Now Washington had opted for "open confrontation with the Islamic movement" after it was "convinced that its allies were incapable of" leading the battle.

(Continued on page 7)

Syria criticises Qatar

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria accused Qatar on Saturday of hurting Arab solidarity by making overtures to Israel and distancing itself from Saudi Arabia.

"Qatar is leaving the Arab ranks... which will no doubt lead it into the trenches of our adversaries," said the official Al Thawra newspaper, in the first Syrian attack on Qatar in many years.

The paper said it feared Qatar's policies would lead it down a dangerous path.

Israel signed a letter in October with the U.S. company Enron to import natural gas from Qatar, and the two countries are discussing the establishment of commercial offices in each other's territories.

Qatar's relations with Saudi Arabia have also been strained since it refused the nomination of a Saudi to head the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which also includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

"The attempt to create dissension between GCC members in various ways and using different pretexts only serves enemies of the Gulf region and the Arab Nation and will eventually turn against Qatar," Al Thawra said.

The criticism come after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met Thursday with the former emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, who is touring Arab states to garner support for his plans to return to power.

Sheikh Khalifa, who was overthrown by his son in a bloodless coup on June 27, said at the end of last month that he planned to retake control of Qatar.

In Muscat on Saturday, Oman's Sultan Qaboss Ben Sa'id met with the former emir, the official ONA news agency said. It did not give details.

Sheikh Khalifa has also been to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Egypt in his bid to seek support for his return to power.

Airport sources said the representative of Sultan Qaboos and several ministers greeted Sheikh Khalifa upon his arrival from Syria.

The former emir's tour has put pressure on the Qatari emir, Sheikh Hamad.

Gulf officials say the former emir had been given receptions befitting a head of state during his tour, angering Doha.

COLUMN

Britain's afternoon winter gloom to stay

LONDON (R) — Scottish members of parliament Friday wrecked a plan to move Britain's clocks forward in winter to give an extra hour of afternoon daylight. An English MP, John Butterfill, introduced a bill to bring British time into line with European time, saying this would not only help business but would also reduce road accidents and curb crime. But MPs from Scotland argued that the change would mean even gloomier mornings in their northern regions. They joined forces with Eurosceptics opposed to closer links to Europe to keep debate going until the bill ran out of time for a final vote. "The forces of darkness have won," said one of Mr. Butterfill's supporters, David Wilshire. The proposed change stirred up deep feelings, with arguments raging inside and outside parliament for weeks. Mr. Butterfill won support from businesses, charities, police and road safety organisations, but opponents dubbed the bill's backers "time bandits" involved in "daylight robbery". Mr. Butterfill told parliament the change would make it safer for people to go out in the evening by transferring an hour of daylight from the morning. Crime would be cut, he said. "It's a fact that criminals don't get up in the early mornings to commit crimes. They are usually still in bed, probably sleeping off a hangover induced by the proceeds of their previous crimes." But the bill angered right-wingers in the Conservative Party who have plagued Prime Minister John Major's efforts to take a constructive line on Europe. One of them, Teddy Taylor, dismissed it as a "stupid Eurointegration measure."

Windsor Castle damage costs $55 million

LONDON (R) — Windsor Castle, the country home of Britain's Queen Elizabeth that was badly damaged by a fire in 1992, will cost an estimated £36 million ($55 million) to restore, a British government minister said Thursday. After the fire, the queen opened Buckingham Palace, her official London residence, to tourists to help pay for repairs. Buckingham Palace has said it expects restoration of the castle complex, a hodgepodge of architectural styles dating back to the 11th century, to be finished in 1998. Most of the damage to Queen Elizabeth's favourite residence, west of London, hit a 14th-century chapel and rooms housing a priceless art collection. Most of it was saved by volunteers directed by the queen's second son, Prince Andrew. Iain Sproat, national heritage minister of state, told parliament £10.8 million ($16 million) would come from public funds. Windsor Castle was not insured because the premium would have been too high.

Wind rips chunk off U.N. General Assembly dome

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A large chunk of metal was ripped from the dome of the U.N. General Assembly building during a fierce windstorm Friday, a U.N. spokesman said. It measured about 13 feet (4 metres) by 10 feet (3 metres) and landed on the back of a parked car belonging to Togo's U.N. mission, causing damage but no injuries. The hole in the dome's outer lining also resulted in a minor leak inside the Assembly hall, the spokesman added.

Paris, Algiers set talks on Air Algerie flights

PARIS (R) — In a new sign of warming ties between Paris and Algiers, France said on Saturday it planned talks soon with Algeria aimed at resuming Air Algeria flights between the two countries capital cities.

The foreign ministry, citing recent positive diplomatic contacts with Algiers after a period of souring relations, said a special working group had been set up with an eye to resuming the flights, which were cut off in June in a diplomatic row over security and airport facilities.

Junior Transport Minister Anne-Marie Idrac will represent France at the first working group meeting, which is expected to take place in Algiers in the near future though a date has not been set, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

All French airlines cancelled their services to Algeria for security reasons after the Christmas eve hijacking of an Air France airliner by guerrillas in Algiers in December 1994.

Air Algerie is the only airline currently flying between France and Algeria, serving the French cities of Lyon and Marseille.

But it cancelled its service to Paris last June after French authorities insisted on transferring its operations to an isolated high-security terminal at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport to the north of Paris, from ORLY to the city's south.

Air Algerie complained the new facilities discriminated against its passengers.

The suspension at the start of the summer holiday season, spelled havoc for tens of thousands of Algerian immigrants seeking to return home for their annual leave.

French authorities fear new guerrilla attacks against French targets by guerrillas in Algeria, who accuse Paris, the former colonial power, of siding with Algiers in their battle to topple its military-backed government.

An estimated 50,000 people have died in civil strife since the Algerian authorities cancelled 1992 elections that Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win.

The conflict spilled over onto French soil last summer when extremists claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Paris and the Lyon area that killed eight people and injured more than 170.

The Dec. 21, 1994 hijacking and a subsequent diplomatic spat between French President Jacques Chirac and Algerian head of state Liamine Zeroual led to a worsening of ties between Algiers and the former colonial power.

But French and Algerian officials have recently expressed hopes of improved relations following a fence-mending visit to Algiers by National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin and positive talks between French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and his Algerian counterpart Ahmad Attaf.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Envoy to Iran is sworn in

AMMAN (Petra) — The new Jordanian Ambassador to Iran, Noah Salman, was on Saturday sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein. The swearing in ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Israel, Tunisia poised to move closer

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Israel and Tunisia should take a new step in normalising relations Monday when their foreign ministers come together here Monday, diplomatic sources said. Ehud Barak from Israel and Habib Ben Yahia from Tunisia will meet separately with U.S. Secretary of Staste Warren Christopher Monday. But it is expected that the three will then meet before holding a joint press conference where they are expected to announce the date for opening interest sections. The two would open the interest sections — the lowest form of diplomatic relations — in the Belgian embassies in Tunis and Tel Aviv. A Tunisian diplomat confirmed that negotiations were underway on the subject. The two agreed to do so in October 1994, but Tunis never fixed a date for the opening. The Tunisian source added that it was possible the two sides could skip the interest section step and announce an agreement in principle on opening liaison offices which would offer direct representation.

Zeroual meets Libyan, Tunisian envoys

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual met on Saturday emissaries from the Libyan and Tunisian leaders over Morocco's demand to freeze the activities of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Algeria's state-run radio said on Saturday. Morocco demanded the freeze last month in protest at Algeria's backing of the Polisario Front, which seeks Western Sahara's independence from Morocco. The two envoys — cabinet ministers Jomaa Al Fezzani of Libya and Said Ben Mustapha of Tunisia — urged Morocco to withdraw its demand when they met King Hassan in Morocco on Thursday. Mr. Fezzani told Algerian radio after meeting Mr. Zeroual that he and Mr. Ben Mustapha had relayed messages from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Tunisia's President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali about "their concerns related to developments and new events on the Maghreb scene." President Maaouya Ould Sid'ahmad Taya of Mauritania, the other member of AMU, sent an envoy with a message to Mr. Zeroual on Friday. The Arab Maghreb Union was set up in 1989 to promote trade and diplomatic cooperation among the North African countries.

Qatari police dismantle drugs gangs

DOHA (AFP) — Police in Qatar have dismantled two drugs smuggling gangs in a month, an interior ministry spokesman cited by the official QNA news agency said Friday. Anti-drugs squad officers arrested four Asian immigrants carrying 130 kilogrammes of hashish worth 3.5 million riyals ($900,000) in the first raid, the spokesman said.

Egypt Brotherhood leader dies; successor plans political party

CAIRO (Agencies) — The new leader of the Muslim Brotherhood is aiming to found a political party for the first time in the fundamentalist group's efforts to establish Islamic rule in Egypt.

The Brotherhood "wants a political party to have an official presence," Mustapha Mashour, 75, told AFP on Saturday.

Mr. Mashour said he would be named head of the movement "soon" to succeed Mohammad Hamed Abu Nasr, who died Saturday at the age of 83.

It would be the first time the Brotherhood has announced a bid to become a party since its founding in 1928.

"We call for the implementation of Islamic Sharia law and will continue our call by all available means without breaking the law or constitution," Mr. Mashour said.

"We will not turn to violence and we hope that God will allow an opening between us and (the government) to put an end to the injustice of which we have been victims," he said.

The Brotherhood, although banned in 1954, has been tolerated since the mid-1970s, when it said it renounced violence.

But the unofficial truce fell apart last year as the state imprisoned dozens of Brotherhood members and accused the group of backing armed extremists fighting for almost the last four years to topple the government.

Mr. Mashour ruled out calls by younger Brotherhood members for an end to the group's non-violent stance, saying: "We will continue on the moderate path and not follow the unconsidered enthusiasm of the young."

The new leader backed the first ever application for a political party, made by other young Brotherhood cadres "who have called for the creation of the Al Wasat (centre) party."

"We no longer want the government to call us a banned and underground organisation. (Al Wasat) would not be an alternative group (to the Brotherhood) but a political face which would allow us to have a newspaper and headquarters."

"I hope the government will authorise the party, but I think it will refuse," he said.

The group's headquarters in downtown Cairo was closed by police in November after a military court sentenced 54 Brothers to up to five years in prison.

The Brotherhood has been involved in a number of assassinations in its 68-year history.

Its military wing, created in 1942, murdered Prime Minister Ahmad Mahir three years later. In 1948, it assassinated a judge, Ahmad Khazindar, who had sentenced a number of its members, and later the same year another premier Nuqrashi Pasha.

In 1954, President Gamal Abdul Nasser accused the Brotherhood of attempting to gun him down and banned the group.

Mr. Mashour, born in 1921 in the northern Nile Delta region of Sharqiya, studied physical sciences at Cairo Univeristy before being appointed to the state meteorological service, from which he retired in 1977.

He joined the Brotherhood in 1938 and was condemned in prison for the fist time in 1948.

He was released three years later but sentenced again to 10 years in prison in connection with the 1954 attempt to kill Nasser.

Mr. Mashour was arrested a third time several months after being released in 1964 and was released in 1972 by the then-president, Anwar Sadat, in a general amnesty of Brotherhood members.

He has served as the virtual leader of the Brotherhood for the past few years because of his predecessor Abu Al Nasr's deteriorating health.

Mr. Mashour is the author of several works, including "Jihad is the Path" and "By Way of the Call."

Meanwhile Abu Al Nasr was buried Saturday at a ceremony attended by more than 2,000 mourners.

There was a heavy police presence as an all-male crowd, which organisers said reached 2,500, marched in the funeral procession at the Rabaa Al Adawiya mosque in north Cairo. The funeral passed off without incident.

The ceremony was subdued with no slogans chanted. A few waved copies of the Koran, but most simply wept and quietly read verses from the Holy Book.

During a funerary prayer in the mosque, Abu Al Nasr's body lay in an open coffin, covered in a green cloth embroidered with verses.

(Continued on page 7)